

"The practice of courts relying on agencies to interpret the law has proven to be dysfunctional, inconsistent with our constitutional system, and has led to the erosion of individual liberties," President and CEO Robert Alt said in a statement. "It is time for the Supreme Court to junk *Chevron*."

**Disciplinary Proceedings:** The Board of Professional Conduct announced that 12 cases have been certified for formal disciplinary proceedings.

### **Portman Sets Sights On Deferred Park Maintenance; Dems Welcome Pruitt's Exit; Ryan Tours Immigrant Facility**

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) is among a bipartisan group of senators aiming to tackle about \$12 billion in deferred maintenance within the National Park Service.

He joined with senators Mark Warner (D-VA), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), and Angus King (I-ME) to introduce the Restore Our Parks Act, which has earned support from Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, the National Parks Conservation Association, the Pew Charitable Trusts' Restore America's Parks Campaign and the Outdoor Industry Association.

"For more than a century, the National Park Service has been inspiring Americans to explore the natural beauty of our country," Sen. Portman said in a statement. "But in order to keep that work going, we need to ensure that they have the right resources to maintain our national parks. This bill will create the Legacy Restoration Fund to provide the National Park Service with funds for deferred maintenance projects."

The legislation would provide more than \$100 million in funding for work at parks and historic sites in Ohio. The vast majority of the funding would go toward improvements at two sites: Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial in Put-in-Bay (\$47.7 million) and Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Cuyahoga and Summit counties (\$45.8 million).

**Resignation:** Democratic members of Ohio's congressional delegation had no kind words for U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt following his resignation Thursday.

"Scott Pruitt used taxpayer dollars to benefit himself while working to gut Lake Erie cleanup and the Renewable Fuel Standard and the Ohio jobs that depend on them," U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown tweeted. "He never should have been confirmed in the first place, and it's past time for him to go."

U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Niles) issued a brief statement in response to the departure: "It's about time."

U.S. Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-Blacklick) simply tweeted "Byeeeeeee!" with a link to a media report about Mr. Pruitt's resignation.

**Immigration:** Rep. Ryan and three of his U.S. House colleagues from Michigan on Thursday received a tour of Bethany Christian Services' facility in Grand Rapids and learned about the organization's plans to reunite immigrant children with their families.

Rep. Ryan in a statement called the Trump administration's policy of separating children from parents at the U.S.'s southern border "state sponsored abuse."

"Children are traveling by themselves or with their loved ones to avoid violence and danger in their country, and they fled to the United States to find safety and security. They are doing what any responsible parent would do," he said. "But when they arrive at our border, the Trump Administration turns its back on our values and rips children away from their parents - with zero plan to bring them back together."

**Hearing:** Sen. Brown and Sen. Portman will conduct a field hearing of a congressional committee charged with solving looming pension problems next week at the Statehouse.

The House and Senate Joint Select Committee on Pensions will meet at 2 p.m. next Friday at in the Finan Hearing Room. The hearing will allow panel members to receive testimony from Ohio workers and retirees who could be affected if Congress fails to take action.

Multiple plans Ohioans participate in, including the Central States Teamsters Pension Plan, the United Mine Workers Pension Plan, the Ironworkers Local 17 Pension Plan, the Ohio Southwest Carpenters Pension Plan and the Bakers and Confectioners Pension Plan "are currently on the "brink of failure," according to a news release from Sen. Portman's office.

The committee, which has 16 members appointed by House and Senate leadership, has been tasked with reporting a bill to resolve the issue by the end of November.

### **Capitol Scene: Child Caring Group Updates Name**

The advocacy group formerly known as the Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies has renamed itself the Ohio Children's Alliance, it was announced Friday.

The change, the group said, reflects the changing environment for child and family services.

"Our new name is more representative of our mission and the composition of our statewide network of community agencies," said Mark Mecum, the group's CEO. "Over the past five decades, our association has grown to over 70 community agencies that provide behavioral health, foster care, and other child and family services. We've also evolved into an alliance that fosters collaboration and innovation. Our new name symbolizes our commitment to Ohio's children and the agencies that serve them."

The organization was founded in 1973.

## **Governor's Appointments**

**State Dental Board:** Tracy Intihar of Columbus to the for a term beginning July 6, 2018, and ending April 6, 2021.

**Public Benefits Advisory Board:** Dasmine Wright of Columbus for a term beginning July 6, 2018, and ending June 30, 2021.

**Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission:** Guy C. Coviello of Youngstown for a term beginning July 6, 2018, and ending June 30, 2023.

**Ohio Arts Council:** Darryl D. Mehaffie of Greenville, Farid Naffah, MD of Cortland, and Neal F. Zimmers, Jr., JD of Granville have been reappointed to the for terms beginning July 6, 2018, and ending July 1, 2023.

## **Supplemental Agency Calendar**

**Tuesday, July 10**

Radioactive Materials Committee, 35 E. Chestnut St., Basement Training Room A, Columbus, 10:30 a.m.

**Friday, July 13**

Board of Voting Machine Examiners, 17th Fl., 180 E. Broad St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

## **Supplemental Event Planner**

**Monday, July 9**

Release of June casino revenue figures, 1:30 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com)

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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## Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, July 7-Monday, July 9

### Legislative Committees

Monday, July 16

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 3 p.m.

**HB 123** **LENDING LAWS** (Koehler, K., Ashford, M.) To modify the Short-Term Loan Act, to specify a minimum duration requirement for loans made under the Small Loan Law and Mortgage Loan Law, and to limit the authority of credit services organizations to broker extensions of credit for buyers. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

### Agency Calendar

Monday, July 9

State Board of Education, 25 South Front St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m.  
Controlling Board, North Hearing Rm., Senate Bldg., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

### Event Planner

Monday, July 9

Release of June casino revenue figures, 1:30 a.m.  
Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) golf outing fundraiser, Cooks Creek Golf Club, 14065 U.S. Rt. 23, S. Bloomfield, 11 a.m., (11 am registration; 12 pm shotgun)

17 S. High St., Suite 630  
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## Legislative Committee Schedules beginning 7/9/2018

### Monday, July 9

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 3 p.m.

**HB 123** **LENDING LAWS** (Koehler, K., Ashford, M.) To modify the Short-Term Loan Act, to specify a minimum duration requirement for loans made under the Small Loan Law and Mortgage Loan Law, and to limit the authority of credit services organizations to broker extensions of credit for buyers. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

### Tuesday, July 10

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

- If needed

**HB 123** **LENDING LAWS** (Koehler, K., Ashford, M.) To modify the Short-Term Loan Act, to specify a minimum duration requirement for loans made under the Small Loan Law and Mortgage Loan Law, and to limit the authority of credit services organizations to broker extensions of credit for buyers. (7th Hearing-Possible amendments & vote)

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 10 a.m.

Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 11 a.m.


### Thursday, July 12

Ohio Retirement Study Council (Committee Record) (Chr. Schuring, K., 228-1346), Rm. 121, 10 a.m.  
Managed Long-Term Services and Supports Study Committee (Chr. Burke, D., 000-0467), Senate Finance Hearing Rm., 10 a.m.

- Providers and consumers of MyCare services will be invited to share their perspectives on MyCare Ohio along with Q & A (100 minutes); Quality Measures Data from Department of Medicaid (20 minutes)

### Monday, July 16

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (Committee Record) (Chr. Uecker, J., 644-6030), Senate Finance Hearing Rm., 1:30 p.m.

**NOTE:** Click bill or resolution number links to see the legislative history compiled by Gongwer News Service. Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill. Click "Full Text" if present to view the text of legislation on the Legislature's Web site.

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## **Event Planner**

**Monday, July 9**

Release of June casino revenue figures, 1:30 a.m.

Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) golf outing fundraiser, Cooks Creek Golf Club, 14065 U.S. Rt. 23, S. Bloomfield, 11 a.m., (11 am registration; 12 pm shotgun)

**Tuesday, July 10**

Rep. Scott Lipps (R-Franklin) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Host: \$1,000, Sponsor: \$500, Patron: \$350 to Friends of Scott Lipps)

**Wednesday, July 11**

Rep. Richard Brown (D-Canal Winchester) fundraiser, The Paddock Club, 1005 Richardson Rd., Groveport, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor Levels: Sponsor \$250, Host \$100, Guest \$50 to Citizens for Richard Brown)

**Thursday, July 12**

Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Crest Gastropub, 621 Parsons Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Host \$500, Friend \$250, Supporter \$150; Guest \$69 to Friends of Hearcel F. Craig)

**Monday, July 16**

Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) golf outing fundraiser, Mohawk Golf Course, 4399 OH-231, Tiffin, 8:30 a.m., (8:30 am registration; 10 am shotgun)

**Tuesday, July 17**

Republican Senate Campaign Committee MLB All-Star Game fundraiser, Dock 79, 79 Potomac Ave SE, Washington DC, 5 p.m., (Walk Off: \$5,000 | Grand Slam: \$2,500 | Home Run: \$1,000 to RSCC)

**Thursday, July 19**

**ALEC Annual Meeting, Denver**

Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) manicure fundraiser, W Nail Bar, 946 N. High Street, Columbus, 4 p.m., (PAC: \$500 | Individual: \$250 | Young Professional: \$50 to Citizens for Stephanie Kunze. RSVP is required to ensure appointment.)

Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) Batter Up fundraiser, Progressive Field, 2401 Ontario Street, Cleveland, 4 p.m., (4:00pm Warm Up & Batting | 5:30pm Reception. Grand Slam: \$5,000 | Home Run: \$2,500 | Single: \$1,000 | Spectator: \$150 to Friends of Matt Dolan)

## **Friday, July 20**

### **ALEC Annual Meeting, Denver**

Rep. Tom Patton (R-Strongsville) golf outing fundraiser, Mallard Creek Golf Club, 34500 Royalton Road (SR 82), Columbia Station, 10 a.m., (10:00 am Shotgun start; Tournament: \$2,000, Eagle: \$1,000; Foursome: \$600, Birdie:\$5000, Person: \$150 to Friends of Tom Patton)

## **Saturday, July 21**

### **ALEC Annual Meeting, Denver**

## **Sunday, July 22**

### **YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

## **Monday, July 23**

### **YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Hidden Creek Golf Club, 6245 Sugar Creek Road, Lima, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration | 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$1,000 | Foursome: \$400 | Tee or Green Sponsor: \$200 | Individual Golfer: \$100 to Huffman for Ohio)

## **Tuesday, July 24**

### **YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Gresso's, 961 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Gold: \$2,000; Silver: \$1,000; Bronze: \$500 to Seitz for Ohio)

## **Wednesday, July 25**

### **YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) golf outing fundraiser, Eagle Rock Golf Club, 211 Carpenter Road, Defiance, 11 a.m., (11:00am Registration and Lunch | 12:00pm Shotgun Start | 5:30pm Cocktail Hour | 6:00pm Dinner with State Rep. Craig Riedel. Event Sponsor: \$2,500 | Tee Sponsor: \$1,000 | Green Sponsor: \$500 | Foursome: \$400 | Dinner Sponsor: \$250 | Individual Golfer: \$100 to Citizens for McColley)

## **Thursday, July 26**

### **YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) golf outing fundraiser, Eagle Rock Golf Club, 211 Carpenter Rd., Defiance, 9:30 a.m., (9:30 Shotgun Start. Event:\$2,500, Tee:\$1,000, Green:\$500, Foursome:\$400, Golfer: \$100 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel)  
Rep. Bill Blessing (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Via Vite, 520 Vine St., Cincinnati, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000, Host: \$500, Guest: \$250 to Citizens for Blessing)



**Friday, July 27**

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**YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

**Monday, July 30**

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**NCSL Legislative Summit, Los Angeles**

**Tuesday, July 31**

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**NCSL Legislative Summit, Los Angeles**

**Deadline to file semi-annual campaign finance reports**

**Wednesday, August 1**

---

**NCSL Legislative Summit, Los Angeles**

**Rep. Riordan McClain (R-Upper Sandusky) golf outing fundraisesr**

**Thursday, August 2**

---

**NCSL Legislative Summit, Los Angeles**

**Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) Lake Erie fundraiser, Dock's Beach House, 252 W. Lakeshore Drive, Port Clinton, 4 p.m., (Sponsor: \$2,500 | Host: \$1,000 | Guest: \$500 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)**

**Friday, August 3**

---

**Deadline for statewide candidates to file July campaign finance reports**

**Speaker Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) golf outing fundraiser, Cliffside Golf, 100 Cliffside Drive, Gallipolis, 9 a.m., (Coffee/Registration: 9:00am; Shotgun Start: 10:00am; Event Chair: \$12,707.79; Event host: \$5,000; Event sponsor: \$2,500; Tee Sponsor: \$1,000; Foursome: \$500; Individual Golfer: \$150; Reception only: \$75 to Friends of Ryan Smith)**

**Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, FOP Hall, 2249 Payne Ave., Cleveland, 5 p.m., (\$200 (table); \$20 (friend) to Friends of Sandra Williams)**

**Tuesday, August 7**

---

**Special election for 12th Congressional District seat**

**Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) fundraiser, Condado, 132 S. High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Host: \$1,000, Sponsor: \$500, Patron: \$350 to Lanese for Ohio)**

**Wednesday, August 15**

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**Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) golf outing fundraiser**

**Thursday, August 16**

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**Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) golf outing fundraiser**

**Friday, August 17**

---

**Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) Fly Fishing fundraiser**

**Monday, August 20**

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**Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) golf outing fundraiser, Pinnacle Golf Club, 1500 Pinnacle Golf Club Dr., Grove City, 10 a.m., (10:00 am Registration, 11:00 am Shotgun start, Dinner to follow; Event:\$1,500, Food and Beverage: \$700, Golfer: \$150; Hole: \$100 to Lanese for Ohio)**

**Thursday, August 23**

---

**Hamilton County GOP State Legislative golf outing fundraiser**

**Monday, August 27**

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**Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) golf outing fundraiser, Denison Golf Club, 555 Newark Granville Rd., Granville, 9 a.m., (9:00 am Registration, 10:00 am Shotgun Start. Event: \$2500; Food and Beverage: \$1000; Tee: \$750; Foursome: \$500; Golfer: \$125; Green: \$100 to Citizens for Scott Ryan)**

**Saturday, September 1**

---

**Lobbyists/Employers can begin filing May-August 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports**

**Thursday, September 6**

---

**Deadline for statewide candidates to file August campaign finance reports  
Rep. Rick Carfagna (R-Westerville) golf outing fundraiser**

**Friday, September 14**

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**Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) golf outing fundraiser, Springdale Golf Course, 5871 Canterbury Road, North Olmstead, 9 a.m., (9:00 am Shotgun Start, Lunch at the Turn, Dinner to follow; Dinner Sponsor: \$1,500, Lunch Sponsor: \$1,000, Drink Sponsor: \$750, Hole Sponsor: \$100; Foursome: \$500, Single Golfer: \$125, Dinner only: \$60 to Friends of Dave Greenspan)**

**Thursday, September 27**

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**Sen. President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) shotgun fundraiser**

**Friday, September 28**

---

**Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) golf outing fundraiser  
Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) Day at the Races fundraiser**

**Monday, October 1**

**JLEC Deadline for filing May-August 2018 Activity & Expenditure Report**

**Wednesday, October 3**

**Deadline for statewide candidates to file September campaign finance reports**

**Thursday, October 25**

**Deadline to file pre-general campaign finance reports**

**Tuesday, November 6**

**General election day**

**Thursday, November 8**

**2018 Impact Ohio Post Election Conference, Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St., Columbus**

**Saturday, December 1**

**Lobbyists can begin renewing Legislative, Executive and Retirement System registrations for 2019**

**Friday, December 14**

**Deadline to file post-general campaign finance reports**

**Monday, December 31**

**All 2018 Legislative, Executive and Retirement System lobbying registrations expire in OLAC**

**Thursday, January 31**

**Deadline to 2018 annual campaign finance reports**

**Deadline to 2018 annual campaign finance reports**

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**From:** GOVERNING Daily  
**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2018 8:46 AM  
**To:** Griffin, Lisa  
**Subject:** Union Ruling Could Impact Black Women the Most

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FEATURED STORY FOR JULY 9, 2018

## The Janus Decision Is a Blow to Unions. It's Especially Bad for Black Women.

The Supreme Court's ruling could weaken unions' collective bargaining power, which has historically benefited women of color more than most.

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## LATEST GOVERNING NEWS&COMMENTARY

### INFRASTRUCTURE&ENVIRONMENT

#### **Different Energy Boom, Same Mistakes?**

Critics say West Virginia, which is enjoying an explosion of natural gas production and jobs, is repeating the missteps it made with the coal industry.

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By better aligning their services to community needs, they can target inequities and support economic opportunity.

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- **After Medicaid Ruling, Mississippi Tweaks Its Work Requirements Waiver**

#### POLITICS

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- **Illinois Governor Profits Off ICE Detention Center Contracts**  
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- **Harassment Allegations Spur Calls From His Own Party for Indiana AG to Resign**  
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- **Former Republican Governor of Iowa, Known for Helping Refugees, Dies**

#### PUBLIC JUSTICE&SAFETY

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- **In Unprecedented Ruling, Federal Judge Strikes Down a State Law That Ties Court Fees to Driver's Licenses**  
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- **There's a Cure for Hepatitis C, But 144,000 State Prisoners Aren't Getting It**  
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- **Gun Violence Protesters Shut Down Highway in Chicago**

#### NEWS IN NUMBERS

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# Almost 60

**Wildfires raging, in 11 states, last week.**

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## WHO SAID THAT?

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**"California's decision not to assist federal immigration enforcement in its endeavors is not an 'obstacle' to that enforcement effort. Standing aside does not equate to standing in the way."**

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**From:** NCSL TODAY

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**To:** Griffin, Lisa

**Subject:** Why 'orphan' oil and gas wells are a growing problem for states

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## **TOP NEWS** July 9, 2018

### **Why 'orphan' oil and gas wells are a growing problem for states**

*Stateline*

Unplugged wells can leak explosive gas into neighborhoods and leach toxins into groundwater.

### **At state level, GOP renews push for 'supermajority' for tax hikes**

*The Washington Post*

Florida Republicans are pursuing a plan to make it harder for lawmakers to raise taxes in the state, adding new hurdles for Democrats hoping to enact bold social programs such as "Medicare for all" and more robust education spending. **NCSL research cited.**

### **Insurers warn of rising premiums after Trump axes Obamacare payments again**

*Reuters*

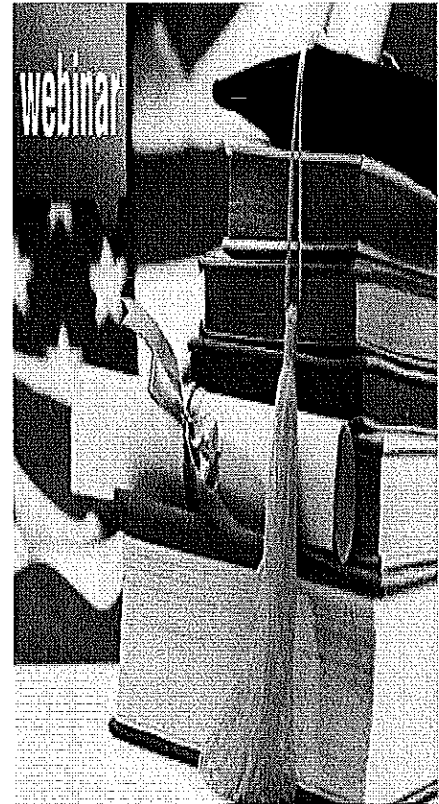
Health insurers warned that a move by the Trump administration on Saturday to temporarily suspend a program that was set to pay out \$10.4 billion to insurers for covering high-risk individuals last year could drive up premium costs and create marketplace uncertainty.

[NCSL resources on health insurances premiums and increases.](#)

### **North Dakota measure would ban noncitizen voting**

*Associated Press*

Backers of a measure to change the North Dakota Constitution to explicitly bar non-U.S. citizens from



FEATURED

### **Webinar Wednesday: Revitalizing civics education in U.S. schools**

This webinar will explore the general state of civics knowledge and education in the United State and highlight some of the work state legislators are undertaking to address the civics education and engagement in their states.

NEW@NCSL

voting say they have gathered enough signatures to get it on the November ballot. **NCSL research cited.**

## **Delaware lawmakers approve bill to prohibit pharmacist 'gag clauses'**

*Delaware Public Media*

Pharmacy Benefits Managers (PBMs), third-party administrators of prescription drug programs for health insurance plans, sometimes forbid pharmacists from telling customers about cheaper therapeutic alternatives, or disclosing when a drug might be cheaper when paid for out-of-pocket, rather than through insurance. **=ANCSL data cited.** [NCSL resources on 'gag clauses'.](#)

## **Janus ruling is a blow to public unions - especially bad for black women**

*Governing*

The Supreme Court's decision could weaken unions' collective bargaining power, which has historically benefited women of color more than most.

## **FY 2019 state budget status**

## **Hear from thought leaders at the forefront of top issues at the Legislative Summit**

## **Connect with the new NCSL Events mobile app**



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Check out this series of webinars organized by the State and Local Legal Center and hosted by NCSL and other organizations. All of the webinars are FREE and intended for a non-attorney and attorney audiences.



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**From:** GOVERNING Daily  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2018 9:14 AM  
**To:** Griffin, Lisa  
**Subject:** Voting Rights Debate Moves From Statehouses to Ballot Boxes

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THE STATES AND LOCALITIES

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FEATURED STORY FOR JULY 10, 2018

## Voting Rights Debate Moves From Statehouses to Ballot Boxes

Voters will weigh in this fall on voter registration, campaign finance and redistricting.

---

## LATEST GOVERNING NEWS & COMMENTARY

INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENT

**The Construction Projects Governments Are (and Aren't) Funding**  
Spending is up on airports but down or flat for schools, highways and prisons.

=9=9

23 PERCENT PODCAST

## **Black, Female and Serving the Public: A Conversation With the Lawmaker Fighting Statehouse Discrimination**

Ohio Rep. Emilia Sykes gets stopped by security trying to enter her place of work. She wants others to share their stories of prejudice.

=9=9

### **VOICES OF THE GOVERNING INSTITUTE**

#### **How to Reduce Jail Populations in Big Ways**

Not everybody charged with a felony needs to be behind bars, and speeding up court processes can have a significant impact.

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## **LATEST WEB HEADLINES**

### **HEALTH&HUMAN SERVICES**

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- **Medicaid Expansion's Fate Up to Courts as Maine Lawmakers Sustain Governor's Veto**

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- **Under Federal Oversight, New York City Cracks Down on Lead Paint in Public Housing**

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### **MANAGEMENT&LABOR**

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- **How the Janus Ruling Could Undercut Private-Sector Unions Too**

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### **POLITICS**

=9=9

- **As Trade War Begins, Kansas Governor Backs Trump**

=9=9

- **Accused of Harassment, Indiana AG Refuses Calls to Resign and Denies Wrongdoing**

=9=9=9

- **Charged With Battery, Ohio Mayor Resigns**

=9=9

- **Colorado Governor's Race: Congressman Polis Taps Ex-State Lawmaker for Running Mate**

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**PUBLIC JUSTICE&SAFETY**

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- **California 'Sanctuary' Lawsuit Dismissed by Federal Judge**

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*Public-Sector Pensions: Economic Stimulators and a Workforce Management Tool*

*Workforce Planning for Today... and the Future*

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## **NEWS IN NUMBERS**

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# **10,497**

**Number of fatal alcohol-impaired driving crashes in 2016, which is the highest since 2009.**

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## **WHO SAID THAT?**

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**"I wasn't sentenced to death. Don't let me die in here."**

**MORE**

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**From:** Westlake, Libby

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2018 11:07 AM

**To:** Griffin, Lisa; Lundregan, Scott; Myers, Marisa; Best, Carolyn

**Subject:** Right-to-Work talking points for review

**Attachments:** Right-to-work.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** PRR

Attached-thank you!

**Libby Henson**

Special Assistant to the Speaker for Correspondence

Office of Speaker Ryan Smith | Ohio House of Representatives

(614) 728-5448



## **RIGHT-TO-WORK**

### **Talking to public and private employers and employees, labor unions**

*In an effort to keep Ohio competitive, right-to-work legislation prioritizes workers' rights while encouraging economic growth and competition among industry. Should Ohio become a right-to-work state, it would be more competitive with bordering right-to-work states.*

#### **House Joint Resolution 7 (Becker/Riedel, referred to committee 1/16/2018)**

- Private-sector right-to-work: No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. This emphasizes that Ohio is open for business.

#### **House Joint Resolution 8 (Becker/Riedel, referred to committee 1/16/2018)**

- Public-sector right-to-work: Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.

#### **House Joint Resolution 9 (Becker/Riedel, referred to committee 1/16/2018)**

- Public-sector prevailing wage: Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.

#### **House Joint Resolution 10 (Becker/Riedel, referred to committee 1/16/2018)**

- Public-sector paycheck protection: Prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers' wages. Unions will also be prohibited from spending workers' money on political activities without workers' consent.

#### **House Joint Resolution 11 (Becker/Riedel, referred to committee 1/16/2018)**

- Public-sector project labor agreements: State and local government entities will be prohibited from engaging in contracts that minimize competition for construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered, creating a level playing field.

#### **House Joint Resolution 12 (Becker/Riedel, referred to committee 1/16/2018)**

- Public-sector union recertification: Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers' bargaining units, opening up competition for new bargaining units, giving workers a chance to have their voices heard, and making union leadership accountable to their membership.

#### **House Bill 163 (Roegner/Riedel, referred to committee 5/1/2017)**

- Allows a political subdivision, special district, or state institution of higher education to opt out of Ohio's prevailing wage law

**Janus v. AFSCME Decision**

- Overturned *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education*, which had allowed public-sector labor unions to collect “agency fees” from bargaining unit members who opt out of union membership
- No agency or fair share fee can be collected by public-sector labor unions unless the public employee agrees to pay

**From:** Ben Husch  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 11, 2018 1:31 PM  
**To:** Griffin, Lisa  
**CC:** Kristen Hildreth; Jennifer Schultz  
**Subject:** Reminder: NRI Committee Call Wednesday, July 18 at 3 PM ET/2 PM CT/  
1 PM MT/ Noon PT  
**Attachments:** DRAFT - NRI Policies for Review.pdf; DRAFT - NRI Legislative  
Summit Agenda.pdf



JULY 30 - AUGUST 2 | 2018

Members of the Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee,

As a reminder, we will host a **full committee conference call on Wednesday, July 18 at 3pm ET/2pm CT/1pm MT/noon PT**. The call will provide an opportunity for all committee members to review both the committee's agenda and the policy resolutions and amendments the committee will consider at its business meeting. An agenda and policy booklet is attached for you to review at your leisure, and call in information is below:

**866-939-8416**  
**2757160#**

Finally, as we get closer to NCSL's 2018 Legislative Summit, July 30 – August 2 in Los Angeles, California, if you have not already registered, please do so at your earliest convenience – the “advanced” registration rate of \$685 ends **today, July 11**. If you have not booked your hotel, please do so as today is the final day to book under NCSL's reserved rate.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact myself, Kristen or Jen.

– NRI Committee Staff



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Denver: 303-364-7700

Washington: 202-624-5400

**NCSL Standing Committee on Natural Resources and  
Infrastructure**

**POLICY DIRECTIVES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**2018 NCSL Legislative Summit  
Los Angeles, California**

**Table of Contents**

<b>AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>STATE SOVEREIGNTY IN AIR AMBULANCE REGULATION .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>ANIMAL AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>AVIATION .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>NATIONAL AGRICULTURE .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>ENCOURAGING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE EMERGING CONSERVATION ECONOMY.....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>OFFSHORE DRILLING .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>OPPOSITION TO THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S PROPOSED ROLLBACK OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSION STANDARDS.....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>RENEWABLE ENERGY.....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>REDUCING BARRIERS OF SMART COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE ADVANCEMENT .....</b>	<b>40</b>

1   **COMMITTEE:**        NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
2   **POLICY:**           AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES  
3   **TYPE:**             RESOLUTION

4   The automobile is on the cusp of a technological transformation with the potential to  
5   both revolutionize personal mobility and provide immeasurable safety benefits. As  
6   vehicles that operate on public roads are subject to both state, federal and local  
7   jurisdiction, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) understands the  
8   need to clearly define state and federal roles as well as avoid unnecessary federal  
9   preemption and burdensome federal mandates.

10

11   **State Authority to Regulate Autonomous Vehicle Testing**

12   NCSL agrees that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) should  
13   be the sole entity setting federal motor vehicle safety standards (FMVSS) for  
14   autonomous vehicles, equivalent to their current role for conventional vehicles.  
15   However, NCSL strongly believes that states are the sole authority when it comes to  
16   vehicle use—which includes vehicle registration; driver licensing and education; traffic  
17   laws, regulations and enforcement; and insurance and liability. NCSL is opposed to  
18   congressional or administration proposals that would seek to preempt this authority from  
19   states by prohibiting states from prescribing certain standards or regulations related to  
20   autonomous vehicle testing, including requirements related to the presence of a human  
21   driver.

22

23   **FMVSS Exemptions**

24   NCSL recognizes, appreciates, and agrees that authority to issue exemptions of  
25   FMVSS remains solely in the realm of the Secretary of Transportation. However, NCSL  
26   strongly encourages the Secretary (or applicable designated agency) to ensure that any  
27   exemption of existing motor vehicle safety standards provides a safety level at least

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

28 equal to the safety level of the standard. Further, as exemptions are granted, NCSL  
29 implores the department to provide such information to states, in a timely manner.

30

### 31 **Advisory Councils**

32 NCSL requests that state legislators be appointed to or included in any congressional or  
33 administration task force, council, or other advisory group related to the development of  
34 autonomous vehicles. NCSL encourages congressional and administration task forces  
35 to work with NCSL to help ensure the appropriate states are included.

36

### 37 **Cybersecurity Information Sharing**

38 Cybersecurity is a vital aspect of autonomous vehicles. As vehicles begin to  
39 communicate with each other (vehicle-to-vehicle or V2V) as well with infrastructure  
40 (vehicle-to-infrastructure, V2I, and V2X), the potential risk of cyberattacks and security  
41 breaches greatly increases. NCSL urges both the administration and Congress to both  
42 share any threat information with state governments and to work with states to ensure  
43 that such threats and affected vehicle populations do not become endemic. A  
44 collaborative effort is vital in ensuring such safety.

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

1   **COMMITTEE:**           **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**  
2   **POLICY:**               **CLIMATE CHANGE**  
3   **TYPE:**                 **RESOLUTION**

4   The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) urges the federal government to  
5   consult with state elected officials, their national representative organizations and  
6   existing interstate partnerships in developing a federal program. As Congress and the  
7   administration examine proposals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, NCSL  
8   encourages the federal government to always take the following principles into account:

- 9       • Federal action should be flexible, allowing for a range of complementary  
10       strategies at the state and federal level maintaining a strong role for state, local  
11       and tribal government in any federal action.
- 12       • Federal legislation should provide states the authority and flexibility to work within  
13       an overall framework; to apply the law effectively to all sources of emissions and  
14       ensure achievement of climate change goals in the most cost effective, timely  
15       and efficient manner for each state.
- 16       • Federal legislation should not preempt state or local governments from enacting  
17       policy options that differ from federal choices or from enacting stricter or stronger  
18       measures within their jurisdiction.
- 19       • Federal legislation should afford states the flexibility to form regional  
20       cooperatives and implement innovative policies that advance federal efforts to  
21       reduce the effects of climate change.
- 22       • Congress must authorize and appropriate sufficient funds for federal, state and  
23       local governments to implement any federal legislation. These funds should be  
24       newly authorized appropriations, not reprogrammed resources.
- 25       • Federal legislation should ensure state legislative authority in any federal climate  
26       change legislation and affirm the active role played by state legislatures in both  
27       fiscal and substantive aspects of state policymaking.

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)



- 28       • Federal legislation providing for the allocation of greenhouse gas reduction  
29       programs to states should include language making decisions related to such  
30       allowances subject to state legislative approval.  
31
- 32       NCSL urges the federal government, should it choose to act on this issue, to take into  
33       account the following principles regarding program design components:
- 34       • Any national system must include short, medium and long-term goals and  
35       incorporate a rigorous oversight program that provide for ongoing study and  
36       analysis of the system to ensure it is achieving intended goals.
- 37       • A new national program should serve to address uncertainties that are  
38       hampering investment in generation, transmission and distribution and enhance  
39       the likelihood that appropriate technologies will be developed and other solutions  
40       implemented so as to achieve the desired reductions in GHG emissions in the  
41       most economical manner possible.
- 42       • Federal legislation should be designed appropriately to balance competing  
43       criteria, including, but not limited to, equity, economic efficiency and ease of  
44       administration.
- 45       • Revenue derived from a greenhouse gas reduction program should be directed  
46       to complimentary policies focused on mitigating climate change consumer costs  
47       including but not limited to energy research & development, weatherization,  
48       conservation and energy efficiency activities.
- 49       • A national program to reduce GHG emissions must also address adaptation  
50       issues.
- 51       • Auctioning of allowances may be the most economically efficient mechanism for  
52       achieving a GHG emissions reductions goal. However, the allocation of  
53       emissions allowances at no cost can serve as an appropriate transition measure  
54       necessary to ensure continued reliability, minimize economic dislocation resulting  
55       from the carbon intensity of the existing infrastructure, and allow for development  
56       and deployment of needed new technologies and measures to reduce emissions.

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

- 57 • Priority distribution of allowances at no cost should be to those entities in affected  
58 sectors where existing regulatory structure provides the necessary oversight to  
59 ensure that the value of such allowances is accounted for in establishing price  
60 rates for consumers.
- 61 • The allocation of greenhouse gas reduction program to states under a federal  
62 greenhouse gas reduction program should include language making decisions  
63 related to such allowances subject to state legislative approval.
- 64 • The establishment of any new federal program should include provisions for  
65 transparent reporting and accountability and incorporate the use of third party  
66 verification to ensure reported outcomes are verifiable.

67

#### 68 **Unintended Consequences**

69 NCSL believes that federal legislation regarding the reduction of greenhouse gases  
70 should take into account the implications of actions and/or inactions on economic  
71 development, energy security, and those most vulnerable citizens. Evaluation should  
72 include the life cycle impacts of policy options including ancillary impacts.

73

74 NCSL believes that federal legislation should require continuing assessments of the  
75 potential impacts to the United States of climate change, by state or region including  
76 effects on water resources, agriculture, infrastructure, natural systems, environmental  
77 quality, public health, biodiversity and the cultures of our native peoples. Such an  
78 assessment will support the development of domestic and international adaptation-  
79 mitigation strategies. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should provide  
80 funding and assist states in developing assessments and adaptation plans at the state  
81 and regional level.

82

83 NCSL also urges the federal government to fully consider how legislation will affect low-  
84 income households that already struggle to balance needs and expenses. NCSL  
85 encourages the federal government to expand and enhance long-term funding for the  
86 Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program and to ensure that any new

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

87 federal program does not undermine existing federal, state and private sector energy  
88 assistance and outreach programs that assist our most vulnerable citizens.

89

90 **Research and Development**

91 NCSL strongly urges the federal government to authorize and appropriate funding and  
92 provide other incentives to spur expanded research and development (R&D), as well as  
93 advance the demonstration and deployment of new and existing technologies to  
94 improve energy efficiency, advance mitigation strategies and reduce greenhouse gas  
95 emissions.

96

97 NCSL urges the federal government:

- 98 • To ensure that legislation not limit the diversity of technologies supported, as  
99 future advancements cannot be predicted.
- 100 • To take into account state and regional differences, and not limit or specify the  
101 technologies used in each state and ensure sufficient flexibility for each State to  
102 determine how to best achieve nationally-set goals.
- 103 • To promote current and future innovations and expand the use of such  
104 technology through R&D transfer agreements with other countries.

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

1   **COMMITTEE:**           **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

2   **POLICY:**               **STATE SOVEREIGNTY IN AIR AMBULANCE**

3                           **REGULATION**

4   **TYPE:**               **RESOLUTION**

5   **WHEREAS**, as many rural hospitals have recently closed, air ambulance services have  
6   become increasingly necessary and are being used more frequently to transport  
7   patients to faraway hospitals in an emergency; and

8  
9   **WHEREAS**, competition among air ambulance services have increased costs; and

10

11   **WHEREAS**, air ambulance services can cost patients tens of thousands of dollars out-  
12   of-pocket when companies do not accept a patient's insurance, and emergency patients  
13   rarely have the capacity to choose their own air ambulance company; and

14

15   **WHEREAS**, some air ambulance companies refuse to reveal actual costs to insurers,  
16   and some insurers are unwilling to pay market value for the service; and

17

18   **WHEREAS**, federal government Medicare reimbursements cover only a small portion of  
19   the actual cost of an air ambulance, forcing air ambulance companies to charge patients  
20   more; and

21

22   **WHEREAS**, under the Airline Deregulation Act, states cannot regulate routes, services  
23   or prices of air ambulances.

24

25   **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Conference of State  
26   Legislatures (NCSL) supports state sovereignty in air ambulance regulation in order to  
27   protect patients from overwhelming financial burdens for emergency medical services;  
28   and,

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

29 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCSL urges Congress to amend the Airline  
30 Deregulation Act in order to provide states the authority to enforce insurance regulations  
31 on air ambulance providers to protect consumers.

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

1    **COMMITTEE:**                    **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

2    **POLICY:**                        **ANIMAL AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION**

3    **TYPE:**                          **DIRECTIVE**

4    The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) believes a strong animal  
5    production agriculture capacity is imperative in maintaining domestic and international  
6    consumer confidence in the safety of the United States meat supply.

7  
8    **Animal Identification**

9    NCSL believes a national animal identification program, if properly implemented in  
10   cooperation with the states and territories, could be beneficial in maintaining consumer  
11   confidence in meat from the United States, an invaluable tool in reducing and tracking  
12   future outbreaks of infectious disease, and serving as an important firewall against any  
13   attempted terrorist attack on the food production system in the United States.

14  
15   Any future effort by USDA to develop a national animal identification program must be  
16   designed and implemented in full consultation with state legislatures to ensure proper  
17   attention to public interest and financial considerations. Any program must be designed  
18   and implemented in cooperation with the departments of agriculture of the states and  
19   territories. USDA must work to ensure that any animal identification system is  
20   compatible with the current inspection and enforcement systems of the state  
21   governments. Any applicable federal program should not be applied to animals involved  
22   in intrastate commerce without state consultation.

23  
24   **\*\* Amendment \*\***

25   **Equine Industry and USDA Inspection of Horse Meat**

26   ~~The processing of horses has become a controversial and emotional issue, resulting in~~  
27   ~~the closure of the last horse processing facility in the United States. Without affordable~~  
28   ~~and economic alternatives, unwanted horses are abandoned. The nation's inadequate~~

29 and overburdened horse rescue and adoption facilities cannot begin to handle the  
30 influx. These additional unwanted horses will compete for adoption with wild horses that  
31 are currently fed and sheltered at a public expense. In the Western United States (US),  
32 the additional pressure on public lands from horses turned out to run wild is only  
33 intensifying the over-population, over-grazing, and ultimate destruction of the  
34 ecosystem.

35

36 **NCSL urges members of Congress to:**

- 37 • Recognize the need for humane horse processing facilities in the United States.
- 38 • Not to interfere with State efforts to establish facilities in the United States. State  
39 livestock programs that were once able to recoup the costs of caring and feeding  
40 for abandoned animals by marketing them, are now forced to greatly increase  
41 their budgets at the expense of taxpayers.
- 42 • Recognize the positive economic impact of willing market for the US horse  
43 industry. These, and ethnic markets inside the US would appreciate an additional  
44 source of high quality protein untainted by disease concerns of other species of  
45 livestock.
- 46 • Oppose legislation that would restrict the market, transport, processing, or export  
47 of horses. Horse processing in the United States is particularly tightly regulated,  
48 and the horse is the only animal whose transportation to processing is regulated.  
49 Horse processing facilities in the United States are required to have United  
50 States Department of Agriculture (USDA) veterinarians supervise the euthanasia,  
51 and the euthanasia method is humane, according the American Veterinary  
52 Medical Association and the United States Department of Agriculture.
- 53 • Oppose limitations under federal appropriations law prohibiting the use of federal  
54 dollars to be spent on the salaries of inspectors for ante and post mortem  
55 inspections.

56

57 **\*\* Substitute Amendment\*\***

58 **Equine Industry and USDA Inspection of Horse Meat**

59 The processing of horses has become a controversial and emotional issue. Without  
60 affordable and economic alternatives, unwanted horses are abandoned. The nation's  
61 inadequate and overburdened horse rescue and adoption facilities cannot handle the  
62 growing number of unwanted horses. In the Western United States (US), the additional  
63 pressure on public lands from this growing population is intensifying harm to the  
64 ecosystem from over-grazing and increasing costs to state and local governments.

65  
66 **NCSL urges members of Congress to:**

67 Recognize the need to address the growing number of unwanted horses by increasing  
68 resources to enhance rescue and adoption while opposing legislation that would restrict  
69 slaughter when these methods fail to adequately resolve the growing population of wild  
70 and abandoned horses.

71  
72 Not interfere with individual state efforts that aim to similarly address the growing  
73 population of unwanted horses.

74  
75 Recognize the positive economic impact and relief of budgets at the state and national  
76 level created by the establishment of a market for the US horse industry resulting from  
77 global, cultural solutions.

78  
79 Maintain current United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) horse slaughter  
80 veterinary regulations concerning supervision and euthanasia.

81  
82 NCSL also urges Congress to reclassify equine as a nonamenable species  
83

84 **Interstate Sale of State-Inspected Meat and Poultry**

85 The Farm Bill program authorizes USDA to promulgate rules to establish the  
86 parameters of the state programs. The proposed draft rule would allow these states to  
87 establish an interstate meat shipment program and request selected establishment



88 status for those businesses who wish to remain state inspected, but wish to market  
89 products in interstate commerce. The creation of interstate sales of state-inspected  
90 meat and poultry programs will level the economic playing field for small business, spur  
91 more competition in the marketplace, create a more uniform inspection system, and  
92 enhance consumer confidence in the food supply—all of which will benefit farmers,  
93 ranchers, processors, small business, and consumers.  
94  
95 NCSL supports the establishment of interstate shipment of state-inspected meat and  
96 poultry programs in qualifying states, and urges USDA to create rules that facilitate the  
97 program.

1  
1 **COMMITTEE: NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**  
2 **POLICY: AVIATION**  
3 **TYPE: DIRECTIVE**

4 Aviation is a key component of a balanced transportation system and is vitally linked to  
5 regional growth and economic development efforts. The development and preservation  
6 of a balanced system of airports, which is responsive to the needs of all sectors of the  
7 nation, is the mutual responsibility of federal, state and local governments. Given this  
8 mutual responsibility, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) urges  
9 Congress and the administration to actively engage state legislatures in discussions on  
10 the development and preservation of our system of airports and to avoid federal  
11 mandates, preemption of state authority and where possible provide states maximum  
12 flexibility.

13  
14 **Finance**

15 The following recommendations regarding aviation financing are to be viewed as a  
16 comprehensive package and not as individual parts to be implemented piecemeal.  
17 Recognizing the safety, security, economic, and other broad public benefits of the  
18 services provided by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), NCSL supports efforts  
19 to:

- 20 • continue a General Fund contribution, due to military and federal usage of airport  
21 facilities and services. Maintain the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, financed by  
22 existing dedicated user taxes and charges, as the primary method of funding  
23 federal-aid aviation projects. Any federal aviation fees collected from airline ticket  
24 taxes that are diverted to non-aviation purposes should be rededicated or  
25 repealed. NCSL supports federal grant assurance provisions barring diversion of  
26 airport revenue to non-airport purposes;

- 27 • maintain the current structure of federal aviation taxes which equitably distributes  
28 the financial burden on all users;
- 29 • continue to fully fund the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) at authorized levels  
30 annually on a multi-year basis to help support needed safety, security, capacity  
31 and noise projects;
- 32 • authorize states to use AIP funds for increased security measures required by  
33 federal law at a 100-percent federal share;
- 34 • provide states maximum flexibility in the prioritization and administration of trust  
35 fund allocations, this includes aviation-related planning activities being an  
36 allowable expense;
- 37 • remove the Trust Fund from the federal unified budget;
- 38 • create a mechanism to guarantee that all revenue dedicated to the Trust Fund is  
39 spent each year for its intended purpose and that Trust Fund revenue is  
40 classified as "mandatory" spending and operate as a "pay-as-you-go" program;
- 41 • remove statutory or regulatory barriers to state and locally-generated revenues  
42 that support airport activities;
- 43 • reduce aircraft noise and a continued set-aside of AIP funds for noise abatement  
44 projects;
- 45 • continue the Passenger Facility Charges (PFCs) as a supplementary revenue  
46 source to finance airport needs;
- 47 • exempt from federal tax laws airport municipal bonds; and
- 48 • allow the use of innovative financing methods, such as state infrastructure banks  
49 and revolving loans, whenever possible to enable states to meet the funding  
50 needs of smaller airports.

51

#### 52 **State Block Grant Program**

53 The state block grant program should be extended and expanded so that all states are  
54 eligible to participate. NCSL believes that the program should be structured to allow  
55 states the maximum flexibility in the administration of grants.

56

57 **Development**

58 NCSL supports a coordinated national plan of development as long as state plans for  
59 investment are included. As part of the development of the National Airspace System  
60 Architecture, the FAA should make every effort to consider state input. The economies  
61 of many parts of the country are dependent on the modernization of the nation's aviation  
62 system. Federal policies should support state efforts to address capacity problems  
63 through expansion. NCSL supports the increased use of former and current military  
64 airports to provide immediate capacity relief for the aviation system.

65

66 **Regulation**

67 NCSL supports efforts to increase airport capacity and competition within the airline  
68 industry. However, NCSL remains concerned over the preservation of state authority  
69 over certain airline actions and practices. An examination should be made of other  
70 provisions of law that pertain to the ability of the state to regulate or enforce airport  
71 safety standards and practice.

72

73 **Federal-Aid Program**

74 NCSL supports the Essential Air Service (EAS) program and urges the federal  
75 government to honor its commitment to EAS. Where EAS is terminated, proper and  
76 adequate notification to the affected community should be required and transition plans  
77 implemented.

78

79 **Organized Deployment of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)**

80 Registrations of unmanned aircraft already outnumber manned aircraft which highlights  
81 the exponential growth of this technology. Although FAA has issued operational rules  
82 for commercial operators (Part 107) and is studying the potential expansion of  
83 operational rules through the drone Integration Pilot Program, they have yet to finalize  
84 formal operational rules and regulations pertaining to the use of UAS by hobbyists. This  
85 has resulted in a type of frontier mentality for use and judgment in that air space.

86

87 As the agency continues its work to integrate UAS rules and laws, NCSL recognizes  
88 FAA's general authority over the national airspace but believes it is imperative to  
89 preserve the authority of state governments to issue reasonable restrictions on the time,  
90 manner and place of UAS operations as they relate to states' traditional police powers,  
91 including to protect public safety and security, personal privacy, property rights and  
92 manage land use. In response to Congress imposing a nationwide registration  
93 requirement for UAS operators, NCSL supports the delegation of this authority to states  
94 in order to more effectively and efficiently capture all users. Further, NCSL strongly  
95 believes in the need for federal and state governments to work together to manage the  
96 organized deployment of recreational and commercial UAS and that states should be  
97 allowed to conduct enforcement of federal UAS rules if they so choose and that the  
98 federal government should ensure adequate resources be available to states for proper  
99 enforcement.

100

#### 101 **Other**

102 Federal support for research and development of facilities and equipment is critical to  
103 meet the demands of the next century's air travelers. Reforms in the FAA technology  
104 procurement process should be considered.

105

106 NCSL urges Congress to act expeditiously on program reauthorizations so as to ensure  
107 continuity and to minimize negative effects bred by short-term extensions of critical  
108 programs.

1 **COMMITTEE:** **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

2 **POLICY:** **NATIONAL AGRICULTURE**

3 **TYPE:** **POLICY DIRECTIVE**

4 The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) believes that maintaining a  
5 strong production agriculture capacity is critical to our nation's strength and is a matter  
6 of national security. NCSL recognizes that decisions affecting American agriculture  
7 must reflect a working partnership of the federal government with the states in both the  
8 formulation and implementation of policy.

9

10 **Agricultural Fiscal Policy**

11 NCSL urges federal efforts designed to enhance farm income while increasing  
12 agricultural exports. Monetary policies must be implemented which promote low interest  
13 rates and maintain dollar exchange rates which enhance the potential for sale of this  
14 nation's commodities in international markets. The federal government must also  
15 maintain a stable financial network capable of supplying adequate amounts of  
16 affordable credit to the agricultural industry. The government must also continue to  
17 search for innovative financing tools which enhance the ability of agricultural producers  
18 to manage risk and stabilize income. In addition, any domestic farm program must work  
19 in conjunction with a strong, aggressive export program which protects and expands our  
20 export markets.

21

22 State legislators should be represented on any working or study group for the purpose  
23 of addressing long term agriculture lending and payment needs established by  
24 Congress or the executive branch. NCSL urges Congress to review the existing  
25 payment limitations for individual farmers and program eligibility requirements to ensure  
26 that they provide support to economically efficient farming operations and promote the  
27 preservation of the family farm. In addition, the Conference recommends that all federal  
28 agricultural adjustment payments, price-support program loans, payments and other

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[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

29 benefits not related to soil conservation efforts be limited to citizens of this country or  
30 aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

31

32 **Secondary Market for Long-Term Loans:** NCSL urges the federal government to  
33 work with states to assure that the provisions of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987  
34 continue to be fully implemented.

35

36 **Bankruptcy law:** NCSL supports federal legislation to permanently extend allowing  
37 farm operations to declare Chapter 12 bankruptcy.

38

39 **Farm Credit System (FCS):** NCSL encourages farm credit institutions to work with  
40 farmer-borrowers to restructure debt. NCSL urges that any disposition of land and  
41 assets held by the System or its units be conducted in an orderly fashion so that such  
42 disposition does not adversely affect the value of those assets or of other property  
43 within the community. NCSL also urges that FCS institutions continue to work with  
44 producers to provide necessary financing for changes in payments and crops resulting  
45 from adjustments to federal programs.

46

47 **Commercial Lending Institutions:** NCSL believes that as federal financial assistance  
48 is provided to member institutions of the FCS, assistance should also be provided to  
49 commercial lending institutions that provide credit to agriculture. Furthermore, Federal  
50 Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) policies and federal bank regulation procedures  
51 must be reviewed to ensure that the maximum assistance is being provided to troubled  
52 borrowers, without compromising the safety and soundness of the institution or the  
53 assets of the FDIC.

54

55 **Agricultural Bonds:** NCSL supports exempting agricultural bonds from the federal  
56 volume cap placed on industrial revenue bonds in each state. Furthermore, NCSL  
57 recommends that the President and U.S. Congress amend the federal Internal Revenue  
58 Code to make the use of agricultural bonds more attractive to banks and other financial

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[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

59 institutions. NCSL also recommends that the federal government permit deductibility for  
60 loans financed by issuers that are not necessarily small issuers as defined by the  
61 Internal Revenue Code.

62

63 **Crop Insurance:** NCSL supports a state-federal partnership to develop a fair and  
64 affordable crop insurance program that complements other risk management tools  
65 available in the marketplace for all crops. NCSL supports an efficient program that  
66 promotes informed production and management decisions. NCSL also supports federal  
67 efforts to encourage private-sector development of innovative risk management tools.  
68 However, any plan for crop insurance must not adversely impact a state's ability to levy  
69 premium taxes, regulate the business of private insurance or set solvency standards for  
70 private crop insurers.

71

## 72 **Marketing**

73 NCSL seeks a federal policy that will sustain a vibrant agricultural marketplace and  
74 strong farm economy while providing for competition and fair practices. The federal  
75 government should cooperate fully with states' efforts to supplement private sector  
76 marketing programs by providing comprehensive marketing, promotion and market  
77 development activities. These should include, at a minimum, sustained commitments to  
78 the provision of data on market trends and consumer demands, technical assistance,  
79 financial assistance and public education campaigns.

80

81 Special emphasis must be placed upon the development of new markets through the  
82 creation of demand for new crops or products or additional sources of demand for  
83 existing commodities and products; the improvement of linkages between buyers and  
84 sellers; a shift toward the sale of processed, not raw, commodities and high value cash  
85 crops; and the identification and analysis of potential markets. All parties, both public  
86 and private sector, must work together to develop effective strategies to exploit those  
87 opportunities fully and to maintain an ongoing ability to respond to changing consumer  
88 demands.



89

90 **Direct Marketing Arrangements:** NCSL recommends that Congress review the  
91 Packers and Stockyards Act as a mechanism for addressing unfair practices that may  
92 occur under direct marketing arrangements, monitor activities in this area, and enact  
93 appropriate and timely legislation to safeguard the welfare of producers. NCSL urges  
94 Congress and USDA to strengthen and diligently enforce the provisions of the Packers  
95 and Stockyards Act in concert with the clear intent of the Act to curb monopolistic  
96 abuses in the concentrated meatpacking sector.

97

98 **Competition**

99 Family farmers ultimately derive their income from the agricultural marketplace.  
100 Congress must set rules to improve the competitive environment of agriculture so that  
101 farmers are able to retain a greater portion of their income.

102

103 **Natural Resource Conservation**

104 All federal government actions affecting natural resources should be conducted in close  
105 cooperation and only after consultation and coordination with the states. A strong  
106 commitment to conduct research, in the area of improved methods of natural resource  
107 conservation and protection, must be maintained. The federal government should work  
108 with state and local governments to develop agricultural land use policies, but should  
109 leave the responsibility for establishment of these policies to the state and local  
110 governments. NCSL favors a block grant approach that gives states maximum flexibility.  
111 NCSL supports the use of science, technology and effective practices to reduce nutrient  
112 losses to water, including nitrogen and phosphorus, from point and nonpoint sources.

113

114 We encourage significant federal investment in state-supported projects -- with an  
115 emphasis on watershed-based public-private partnerships -- that provide for  
116 accountability and transparency, as evidenced by the establishment of goals, timelines,  
117 milestones, monitoring, measurement and regular public reporting documenting  
118 improvements in the quality of water in public waterways. Fundamentally, NCSL

119 believes that states must be given a much stronger voice in ensuring that federal  
120 wetlands, endangered species, and land management policies respect the rights of  
121 local landowners and states.  
122

### 123 **Wetlands and Endangered Species**

124 The federal government should delegate authority to states for the development,  
125 administration, and enforcement of wetlands protection and endangered species  
126 programs. The national government, acting through USDA, should set broad national  
127 goals and standards for wetlands protection and preservation of endangered species,  
128 but states should have the flexibility to meet those goals. The federal government,  
129 furthermore, should provide financial and technical assistance as incentives to  
130 encourage states to assume primacy over wetlands and endangered species programs.  
131

### 132 **Pollinator Health**

133 NCSL recognizes the importance of pollinators and stresses the negative ramifications  
134 of continued pollinator loss, while supporting federal efforts to protect pollinators. We  
135 also recognize the key roles that the federal government plays as a landowner and  
136 manager, regulator of pesticide products, and financial and technical assistance  
137 provider to farmers and other private landowners. As such NCSL supports and calls  
138 upon the federal government to:

- 139 • develop best management practices and enhance pollinator habitat on  
140 federally owned or managed lands;
- 141 • incorporate pollinator health as a component of all future federal restoration  
142 and reclamation projects;
- 143 • revise guidance documents for designed landscapes and public buildings in  
144 order to incorporate pollinator-friendly practices;
- 145 • increase both the acreage and forage value of pollinator habitat in the  
146 Conservation Reserve Program and other federal conservation programs;  
147 provide technical assistance in collaboration with land-grant university-based

148 cooperative extension services to federal departments and agencies, state,  
149 local, and tribal governments, and other entities and individuals including  
150 farmers and ranchers;  
151 • assist states and state wildlife organizations, as appropriate, in identifying and  
152 implementing projects to conserve pollinators through the revision and  
153 implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans;  
154 • assess the effects of systemic pesticides and parasites on bee and other  
155 pollinator health and take corresponding action, as appropriate, to protect  
156 pollinators from pesticides and parasites;  
157 • take immediate measures to support pollinators with proper habitat and  
158 nutrition during the current growing season and thereafter, including planting  
159 pollinator-friendly vegetation, increasing flower diversity in plantings, limiting  
160 mowing practices, and reduce or avoid, when necessary, the use of  
161 pesticides in sensitive pollinator habitats through the use of integrated  
162 vegetation, pest and colony management practices; and  
163 • work closely with the states to align pollinator protection efforts and share  
164 best practices.  
165  
166 NCSL and the states identify as willing partners in the federal government's pollinator  
167 protection efforts and will closely monitor federal actions and progress on these, and  
168 related efforts of utmost importance to the states and our nation's food supply, urban  
169 and rural agriculture economies, environment and natural resources.

## 171 **Land Management**

172 Devolution of authority to states should also be a goal of federal land management  
173 policies. Demonstration projects should be established to determine if state  
174 administration of national forests, grasslands, parks and other federal property will result  
175 in cost savings to taxpayers and greater sensitivity to the concerns of local citizens and  
176 property owners. NCSL, moreover, encourages Congress and federal agencies to hold

177 hearings and public meetings in order to hear the concerns of state and local officials  
178 and of ordinary citizens and property holders regarding the impact of federal  
179 landownership and regulation.

180

#### 181 **Soil Conservation**

182 NCSL supports an ongoing education program to make certain that producers are fully  
183 aware of the need for proper soil conservation practices and of the best methods to use  
184 in their implementation. Diligent efforts must be made by the federal government to  
185 ensure that proper soil conservation practices are adopted and that fragile, erodible land  
186 is protected.

187

188 NCSL supports requiring that each farm have and follow an approved soil and water  
189 conservation plan in order to obtain government assistance. Benefits may be denied if a  
190 crop is grown in violation of this requirement. Further, NCSL supports continued  
191 extension of the Conservation Reserve Program and federal efforts to protect  
192 pollinators, including those that are vital to American food production.

193

#### 194 **Cover Crop Research**

195 NCSL supports federal efforts to further the development of and proliferation and use of  
196 cover crops given the growing concerns about water quality, soil fertility, weed control,  
197 nematode control, water retention and biodiversity. NCSL recognizes that cover crops  
198 have proven to increase yields in university studies as well as in replicated farm  
199 research; are an increasingly popular way to keep soil healthy; helps reduce the need  
200 for Nitrogen and other nutrients, and create a healthier soil environment that resists  
201 disease and pests; inhibit weed growth by shading them out, by preventing emergence,  
202 and by compounds exuded by the roots; are shown to reduce populations of pathogenic  
203 nematodes and encourage populations of beneficial ones; break up soil compaction  
204 whether it is naturally occurring or a result of heavy cultivation and tillage; add diversity  
205 to the natural biological life in heavily farmed soils, often working in synergy with cash

206 crops for bottom line benefits; add diversity to the natural biological life in heavily farmed  
207 soils, often working in synergy with cash crops for bottom line benefits.

208

#### 209 **Research and Development**

210 NCSL supports the state-federal partnership in agricultural research at state  
211 universities. Furthermore, funds must be made available to support research and  
212 development of innovative products. Funds should also be used for dissemination of  
213 information about research discoveries both domestically and abroad. It is particularly  
214 important that the land grant universities maintain their commitment to agricultural  
215 research and development and that the federal government provide sufficient research  
216 dollars to support this vital effort.

217

218 NCSL urges the federal government to maintain a strong research program for the  
219 development of adequate, cost-effective and environmentally sound control measures  
220 to ensure the eradication of all insect and plant pests and animal diseases, which  
221 should be done in close cooperation with the states. Using existing mechanisms and  
222 institutions, the federal government should work with the states in providing the basic  
223 training and retraining opportunities necessary for the successful operation of an  
224 agricultural enterprise and for the continuing adjustment of producers to changing  
225 conditions in agriculture.

226

#### 227 **Intellectual Property Rights in Publicly Funded Research**

228 NCSL calls on Congress to review the Bayh-Dole Act of 1980 and subsequent  
229 amendments for its impact on encouraging concentration and vertical integration within  
230 the agricultural sector, and for its consistency with the mission and purpose of the Land  
231 Grant College system. Further, Congress should increase federal support for  
232 agricultural research, and retain through grant and contract provisions greater portions  
233 of technology arising from such research within the public domain. Congress should  
234 also affirm as objectives of the Land Grant Colleges' agricultural research mission to  
235 achieve broad dissemination and producer access to crop technology, and preserve

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[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

236 and enhance the income and economic opportunities of producers.

237

#### 238 **Beginning Farmer Programs**

239 NCSL supports a state-federal partnership to confront challenges faced by farmers and  
240 beginning farmers, including the use of federal tax incentives to support state-based  
241 development and loan programs. NCSL supports changes to the federal Internal  
242 Revenue code that reduce borrowing costs for qualifying farmers and strengthen state  
243 beginning farmer programs. NCSL is particularly supportive of beginning farmer and  
244 other training programs that provide assistance for military veterans and limited-  
245 resource farmers. Furthermore, NCSL supports raising the total volume of state bonding  
246 authority to free resources for beginner farmer programs if achieved in a manner  
247 consistent with a balanced federal budget.

248

249 In collaboration with state governments, as well as public and private local partners,  
250 NCSL supports investment in joint research, demonstration and development of food  
251 systems that provide opportunity to young and beginning farmers with limited assets, to  
252 produce and deliver affordable, healthy, fresh, nutritious food to consumers within the  
253 local and regional markets where the producers operate, toward a goal of national food  
254 self-sufficiency and optimal health.

255

#### 256 **Agriculture Biofuels**

257 NCSL believes that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) should be the lead  
258 federal agency to examine regulatory issues as they develop for the algaculture  
259 (Farming Algae) industry.

260

#### 261 **Support State Regulation of Agricultural Biotechnology**

262 NCSL supports the responsible use of the beneficial qualities of agricultural  
263 biotechnology such as in improved crop production techniques, pharmaceuticals, anti-  
264 immune disease control, biodegradable plastics, and other potential benefits to people  
265 in their states, the nation, the world and the global environment. NCSL supports the

266 continued-regulation of agricultural biotechnology through state and territorial  
267 governments working in close collaboration and partnership with the Coordinated  
268 Framework for Regulation of Biotechnology administered by the U.S. Environmental  
269 Protection Agency (EPA), USDA, and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

270

### 271 **Industrial Hemp Farming**

272 NCSL supports federal legislation to define industrial hemp as a distinct agricultural crop  
273 (1% or less THC content) and allow states to regulate commercial hemp farming.  
274 Currently 33 states have laws allowing hemp research or farming. NCSL believes that  
275 hemp has a long history as a sustainable and a profitable crop, and has great potential  
276 as a new crop for American agriculture and industry. According to Vote Hemp, an  
277 estimated \$687 million worth of hemp products were sold in the U.S. in 2016, including  
278 foods, body care products, clothing, auto parts, building materials, and paper. Most of  
279 these products were made from imported hemp due to federal policy that prohibits  
280 commercial hemp farming. NCSL believes that federal policies that obstruct industrial  
281 hemp farming are outdated and must be changed.

282

### 283 **Avian Flu Response**

284 The highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) represents a significant threat to U.S. agriculture  
285 and the ability of our farmers to feed a growing world population. The federal government plays  
286 a key role in harnessing resources and providing assistance to farmers, states, and others  
287 affected by the virus. NCSL fully supports:

- 288 • federal efforts to protect poultry production and the nation's food supply by  
289 aggressively working to contain and remediate outbreaks when they occur;
- 290 • federal efforts to serve as technical advisors and the clearinghouse of information  
291 for all sectors and employing time sensitive approaches to sharing information;
- 292 • federal agencies working closely with the states to align HPAI efforts and share  
293 best practices; and
- 294 • increasing federal funding necessary for state and federal agencies to continue  
295 development of biosecurity containment strategies; more aggressive research

296 into the causes of avian influenza; why some fowl are more susceptible; and  
297 prevention measures, including the development of vaccines that can be taken.

#### 299 **Wildfire Funding**

300 Due to the significant increases in suppression costs in the last decade, funding  
301 transfers have depleted resources from vital fire prevention and mitigation programs.  
302 Further, increased fire activity can have substantially negative impacts on air quality,  
303 water quality, greenhouse gas emissions as well as the reduction of downstream water  
304 storage as sediment runoff lowers the effective level of dams and reservoirs;  
305 Additionally, reduced restoration and mitigation funding makes it easier for invasive  
306 pests and diseases to infest vulnerable forests; and the anticipated changes in climate  
307 will also cause fire risk to escalate in drought-ridden regions, further increasing wildfire  
308 suppression costs. Therefore, NCSL urges the federal government to:

- 309 • maintain budget mechanisms for wildfire suppression in order to fund  
310 catastrophic fires as natural disasters adopted as part of the Fiscal Year 2018  
311 budget agreement that minimizes the risk of fire transfers from prevention and  
312 mitigation programs.
- 313 • Manage wildfires on a regional basis, understanding that increased risk for  
314 wildfires on federal lands ultimately will lead to increased costs for state wildfire  
315 programs.



1    **COMMITTEE:**                    **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

2    **POLICY:**                        **ENCOURAGING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE**

3                                        **EMERGING CONSERVATION ECONOMY**

4    **TYPE:**                         **DRAFT RESOLUTION**

5    **WHEREAS**, one of the growth industries is the conservation economy which is a result  
6    of natural resource management practices that better manage the country's diverse  
7    bioregional conservation economies; and

8  
9    **WHEREAS**, we live in a time of tremendous change, the extent of which is the subject  
10   of intense debate around the world, that recognizes the clash of immediate human  
11   needs of food and water with current practices that have a long-term impact on the land  
12   and water's capacity to support life, livelihoods, and traditional lifestyles including local  
13   and indigenous subsistence living; and

14  
15   **WHEREAS**, increasing population and migration of people across the country strains  
16   each State's biodiversity and the current management of land and water is being  
17   evaluated because there is a sense of urgency to understand the impacts, among other  
18   things, or storm water run-off, rain acidity, wastewater, and fish farms; and

19  
20   **WHEREAS**, new initiatives related to natural resource management are integrating  
21   innovative science, traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), clean technology and green  
22   initiatives, as an example, and are encouraging new career pathways, advancing STEM  
23   jobs in conservation; and

24  
25   **WHEREAS**, there is a growing need for a STEM workforce to advance knowledge of  
26   nature's ecosystem and growing demand for new partnerships to be established across  
27   the country between federal agencies, state agencies, NGOs, conservationists,

28 scientists, consumers, producers, urban planners, entrepreneurs, and local  
29 and indigenous organizations to share their expertise, tools, and resources to achieve  
30 socio, financial, and economic prosperity through stewardship of natural resources for  
31 future generations.

32

33 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Conference of State  
34 Legislatures (NCSL) acknowledges new technology exists, such as wireless devices,  
35 advanced satellite monitoring, embedded microprocessors; weather stations, drones,  
36 and robots that monitor, test, or collect data to enhance natural resource management  
37 in a manner that improves efficiency, creates new jobs, and revolutionizes how  
38 we access locations previously too costly and dangerous; and

39

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCSL supports the conservation economy in which  
41 economic wealth is harvested from a bioregion's natural resources in a way that meets  
42 local communities' needs and does not lessen the natural and social health and well-  
43 being of a bioregion; and

44

45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCSL supports the development of an educated  
46 workforce to support the conservation economy and an increase in commerce related to  
47 research, innovation and development of new technologies to better manage natural  
48 resources and the country's diverse bioregional economies; and

49

50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCSL encourages Congress to fund the  
51 advancement of education, research, innovation and technology, and to collaborate  
52 with businesses and organizations that create jobs to meet the growing conservation  
53 economy.

1    **COMMITTEE:**                    **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

2    **POLICY:**                        **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

3    **TYPE:**                          **DRAFT RESOLUTION**

4    **WHEREAS**, environmental justice is defined as the fair treatment and meaningful  
5 involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with  
6 respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws,  
7 regulations, and policies; and

8

9    **WHEREAS**, all people desire to live in good health, in communities with access to  
10 nutritious foods, green spaces, clean air, drinkable water, reliable infrastructure and  
11 government services, and economic opportunity; and

12

13 **WHEREAS**, communities of color and economically-disadvantaged communities have  
14 historically shouldered the burdens of pollution and its toxic impacts on health, air,  
15 water, and land; and

16

17 **WHEREAS**, lack of investment in storm water infrastructure causes basement flooding,  
18 sewer backups, and water contamination that disproportionately affect economically-  
19 disadvantaged communities; and

20

21 **WHEREAS**, lack of access to fresh, local, healthy food contributes to poor health  
22 outcomes such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease throughout communities of color  
23 and economically-disadvantaged communities; and

24

25 **WHEREAS**, communities of color face barriers of access to green open space and the  
26 health and recreational benefits provided therein; and

27

28 **WHEREAS**, access to employment, economic investment, economic mobility, and  
29 training opportunities are unequal across the nation, with minority, low-income, and rural  
30 communities having least access to these opportunities; and  
31

32 **WHEREAS**, economically-challenged communities across the United States - urban,  
33 semi-urban, and rural - together face environmental injustices; and  
34

35 **WHEREAS**, the states must serve and protect their residents and contend with the  
36 adverse effects environmental injustice has on communities within their borders, and  
37

38 **WHEREAS**, addressing environmental justice has been a national priority for over two  
39 decades, as first outlined in the 1994 Executive Order 12898 on Federal Actions to  
40 Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations;  
41 and  
42

43 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Conference of State  
44 Legislators urges the President of the United States and Members of Congress to  
45 earnestly implement policies within the federal agencies and their programs that  
46 inculcate a culture of environmental justice and an awareness of the hurdles faced by  
47 communities of color and economically-disadvantaged communities; and  
48

49 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the federal agencies should both maintain and  
50 strengthen aid to states, through either grants or technical services, to support their  
51 efforts to protect and empower environmental justice communities; and  
52

53 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that certified copies of this Resolution be sent to the  
54 President of the United States and to all Members of the 115th Congress.

1    **COMMITTEE:**                    **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

2    **POLICY:**                        **OFFSHORE DRILLING**

3    **TYPE:**                            **DRAFT RESOLUTION**

4    **WHEREAS**, the proposed federal National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing  
5    Program for 2019-2024 seeks to expand oil and gas exploration, production, and drilling  
6    in the Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, and Gulf of Mexico; and

7  
8    **WHEREAS**, the Administration has pursued efforts to roll back certain enforcement and  
9    regulatory capacity of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement for offshore  
10   drilling activities under the Well Control Rule; and

11  
12   **WHEREAS**, Florida's coasts were previously removed from the proposed program, a  
13   decision based on potential threats that offshore drilling would impose on coastal  
14   tourism and rural economies; and

15  
16   **WHEREAS**, similar to Florida, other states on the U.S. coasts are heavily reliant on  
17   tourism, the maritime sector, and fisheries, which are particularly critical in coastal and  
18   rural communities; and

19  
20   **WHEREAS**, coastal states have been previously impacted by spills such as the BP  
21   Deepwater Horizon explosion that killed 11 people, caused a massive oil spill that  
22   leaked 3.19 million barrels of oil and gas into the Gulf of Mexico for 87 days, and  
23   resulted in \$247 million in losses to the commercial fishing industry; and

24  
25   **WHEREAS**, the probability of these spills occurring only increases if coastlines are  
26   opened to offshore drilling under the proposed plan and oversight of drilling activities  
27   diminished.

28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President of the United States is  
29 respectfully urged to withdraw his proposal to open portions of the Atlantic, Pacific, and  
30 Gulf Coasts for oil and natural gas drilling, or offer the opportunity for each coastal state  
31 to opt-out of this expansion, as such drilling would put coastal economies and the  
32 environment at needless risk of grave harm; and  
33  
34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the President of the United States and Congress  
35 are respectfully urged to maintain the current regulatory enforcement of standards and  
36 oversight of existing and future offshore drilling activities; and  
37  
38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted  
39 to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States, the Secretary of the  
40 United States Department of the Interior, the President of the United States Senate, the  
41 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress.

1. **COMMITTEE:**           **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**  
2 **POLICY:**               **OPPOSITION TO THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL**  
3                               **PROTECTION AGENCY'S PROPOSED**  
4                               **ROLLBACK OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE**  
5                               **EMISSION STANDARDS**  
6 **TYPE:**                 **DRAFT RESOLUTION**

7 **WHEREAS**, the federal Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Standards, the Corporate  
8 Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) Standards, and the waiver allowing California vehicle  
9 emissions standards to be more stringent than those of the federal government have  
10 saved tens of thousands of American lives, reduced U.S. carbon emissions by millions  
11 of tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, and saved American motorists billions of dollars in fuel costs; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, these programs and the waiver authority are under the jurisdiction of the  
14 federal Clean Air Act and have contributed to a modern automobile that lasts longer,  
15 requires far fewer tune-ups, pollutes the air considerably less, and requires less fuel to  
16 operate; and  
17

18 **WHEREAS**, twelve states and the District of Columbia have joined in adopting the more  
19 stringent California vehicle emissions standards; and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, if fuel efficiency had not improved from 2005 through 2015, including as a  
22 result of the current standards adopted in 2012, households would have spent 25  
23 percent more on fuel; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, even with the slightly higher purchase price attributable to incorporating the  
26 technology required to comply with the 2012 standards, the average new vehicle buyer  
27 starts saving during the first month of ownership; and  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, the International Council on Clean Transportation recently found that, due to  
30 technological improvements and innovation, compliance costs for model years 2022–  
31 2025 will be 34 percent to 40 percent lower than originally projected; and  
32

33 **WHEREAS**, auto manufacturers are already complying with the 2012 standards, and  
34 more than one-half of the new vehicles introduced in 2017 already meet the 2020 level  
35 of the standards, and 32 percent comply with the 2025 level; and  
36

37 **WHEREAS**, Synapse Energy Economics has reported that the 2022 and 2025  
38 standards will create more than 100,000 U.S. jobs in the auto industry by 2025 and  
39 more than 250,000 by 2035; and  
40

41 **WHEREAS**, the American Lung Association recently released a poll showing that voters  
42 overwhelmingly support the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) current fuel  
43 efficiency standards for cars, SUVs, and light trucks in model years 2022 to 2025; and  
44 the poll also found that nearly seven in 10 voters want the EPA to leave current fuel  
45 efficiency standards in place.  
46

47 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Conference of State  
48 Legislatures (NCSL) supports current standards and opposes EPA's proposal to roll  
49 back any of the GHG emissions standards or CAFE Standards or to revoke the  
50 emissions waiver granted to California under the Clean Air Act, and be it further; and  
51

52 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NCSL send a copy of this resolution to the EPA  
53 Administrator, NHTSA Administrator, and the United States Congress.



1   **COMMITTEE:**               **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

2   **POLICY:**                   **RENEWABLE ENERGY**

3   **TYPE:**                     **DRAFT RESOLUTION**

4   **WHEREAS**, human activity has caused an alarming increase in greenhouse gases such  
5   as carbon dioxide, primarily produced by the use of fossil fuels, which has resulted in a  
6   rapidly warming globe; and

7  
8   **WHEREAS**, warming temperatures have already caused sea level to rise half a foot in  
9   recent decades, accelerating the coastal erosion, costing upwards of \$500 million per  
10   year in property losses.

11  
12   **WHEREAS**, ocean acidity has already grown about thirty percent, contributing to  
13   widespread coral bleaching and reef loss, shrinking fisheries, and devaluing a natural  
14   resource supporting 1.6 million jobs in the U.S. economy; and

15  
16   **WHEREAS**, a warming climate has already led to increasingly frequent and intense  
17   hurricanes, including a record 17 named hurricanes and tropical storms nearing or  
18   hitting the U.S. in 2017, with three major hurricanes making landfall and causing an  
19   estimated \$265 billion in damages; and

20  
21   **WHEREAS**, industrial emitters have traditionally been allowed to freely emit carbon  
22   dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the air, effectively passing the costs of  
23   mitigation and cleanup onto taxpayers, prompting action to encourage the replacement  
24   of fossil fuels with renewable energy which has already led to successful progress in  
25   reducing costs for consumers, creating jobs, and improving the environment; and

26  
27   **WHEREAS**, 57 percent of all residential buildings in U.S. are suitable for solar  
28   installation that could generate nearly 75 percent of the current residential electricity

---

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

29 consumption, potentially saving consumers money on their utility bills and creating a  
30 growth market that produces thousands of jobs; and  
31  
32 **WHEREAS**, wind power capacity has tripled in the past decade, supplying 6.3 percent  
33 of the nation's electricity in 2017 and supporting 105,500 jobs across the U.S.; and  
34  
35 **WHEREAS**, 29 states have already established renewable portfolio standards to  
36 expand deployment of renewable energy technologies and grow their economies; and  
37  
38 **WHEREAS**, because fossil fuels are a commodity whose price will rise as supplies  
39 become more difficult to extract, and renewable energy is a technology whose price will  
40 decrease as innovation reduces costs, states will increasingly stand to benefit by  
41 switching to renewable energy; and  
42  
43 **WHEREAS**, taxpayers in all states stand to benefit by reducing carbon pollution driving  
44 climate change, whose mitigation and adaptation costs are passed on to consumers as  
45 federal, state, and local governments are forced to spend additional resources fighting  
46 increasing sea-level rise, drought, and natural disasters.  
47  
48 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Conference of State  
49 Legislatures (NCSL) believes the federal government should safeguard and expand  
50 upon established tax incentives and grant programs for renewable energy technologies,  
51 and pursue efforts to make the U.S. a 100 percent clean and renewable energy  
52 economy; and  
53  
54 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCSL believes the federal government should  
55 establish programs to assist states with providing retraining and meaningful support to  
56 workers in the fossil fuel sector to ensure their future we transition the market from fossil  
57 fuels to renewable energy; and

58 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the  
59 President of the United States and to all of the members of the 115th Congress.

1

1    **COMMITTEE:**                    **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

2    **POLICY:**                        **REDUCING BARRIERS OF SMART COMMUNITY**

3                                        **INFRASTRUCTURE ADVANCEMENT**

4    **TYPE:**                         **DRAFT RESOLUTION**

5    **WHEREAS**, Smart Community technologies can strengthen America's cities, states and  
6    regions by improving the overall quality of life, economic opportunity, and security for  
7    those who live in America's communities; and

8  
9    **WHEREAS**, the development and deployment of Smart Community technologies in the  
10   communication, energy, and transportation sectors provides new opportunities to  
11   increase overall public health and facilitates economic growth across urban and rural  
12   communities; and

13  
14   **WHEREAS**, such Smart Community innovation encompasses a range of technological  
15   solutions to modernize and improve the delivery of state and local government services;  
16   and

17  
18   **WHEREAS**, Smart Community technologies can achieve community goals, such as  
19   increasingly clean and efficient transportation, improved energy management,  
20   integration of distributed and renewable energy resources, increase access to better  
21   quality broadband connectivity and enhanced transportation mobility; and

22  
23   **WHEREAS**, partnerships between state and local governments and the private sector  
24   can support 'Smart Community' innovations across all communities and help overcome  
25   resource constraints and impediments, and facilitate the efficient coordination of  
26   services; and

27

28 **WHEREAS**, these public-private partnerships can help accelerate Smart Community  
29 advancements and new technology deployments that benefit residents and constituents  
30 across cities, states, and regions; and ensure that Smart Community technologies are  
31 efficiently integrated and provide maximum benefit to the communities they serve; and  
32

33 **WHEREAS**, the infrastructure of the communications, energy, and transportation  
34 sectors are not only interconnected, but serve as the foundational elements to enable  
35 the deployment of new Smart Community technologies in all communities.  
36

37 **THEREFORE**, agencies, such as the Department of Transportation, Federal  
38 Communications Commission, Federal Aviation Administration, the Department of  
39 Agriculture and the Department of Energy should fund grant programs and opportunities  
40 for state and local governments that support efficient investments in Smart  
41 Communities.  
42

43 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Conference of State  
44 Legislatures (NCSL) believes that federal policymakers, agencies, regulators should  
45 continue to work with state and local levels of government, as well as partners from the  
46 communications, energy and transportation sectors, to develop policies that facilitate  
47 and accelerate the development and deployment of Smart Community technologies that  
48 can maximize benefits for all communities at the local, state, and regional levels.  
49

50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCSL supports additional federal funding toward  
51 the development of Smart Communities, and that the Department of Transportation  
52 should re-launch the 2015 Smart City Challenge, and expand the number of  
53 communities eligible to receive awards across the nation.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE AGENDA**

### **Co-Chairs:**

**Representative Curt A. McCormack, Vermont**  
**Representative Ed Orcutt, Washington**

### **Legislative Staff Co-Chairs:**

**Gene Hogan, South Carolina**  
**Hope Stockwell, Montana**

### **Vice Chairs:**

**Senator Justin R. Cronin, South Dakota**  
**Senator Tyson R. Larson, Nebraska**  
**Representative Chuck McGrady, North Carolina**  
**Representative Andrew J. McLean, Maine**  
**Representative Mary M. Mushinsky, Connecticut**  
**Representative Dan Saddler, Alaska**

### **Legislative Staff Vice Chairs:**

**Sean Hamel, North Carolina**  
**Jason Powell, Virginia**  
**Brandon White, Kentucky**

<b>Sunday, July 29</b>	
8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. <i>JW Marriott, Plaza 1</i>	<b>Energy Supply Task Force</b> Contact <a href="mailto:Kristy.Hartman@ncsl.org">Kristy.Hartman@ncsl.org</a> for more information
8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. <i>Offsite</i>	<b>Agriculture Task Force Tour</b> Contact <a href="mailto:Ben.Husch@ncsl.org">Ben.Husch@ncsl.org</a> for more information
<b>Monday, July 30</b>	
7:30 a.m. – Noon <i>JW Marriott, Diamond 10</i>	<b>Agriculture Task Force</b> Contact <a href="mailto:Ben.Husch@ncsl.org">Ben.Husch@ncsl.org</a> for more information
8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. <i>151</i>	<b>Energy Policy Summit</b> Contact <a href="mailto:Kristy.Hartman@ncsl.org">Kristy.Hartman@ncsl.org</a> for more information
Noon – 1:15 p.m. <i>404 AB</i>	<b>NRI Committee Policy Working Group</b> The members of each Standing Committee's Policy Working Group will review recently introduced and existing policy directives and resolutions and discuss the committee's work products. Any policy directives and resolutions considered by the Policy Working Group will be referred to the full committee for further discussion and vote at the committee's business meeting. If you do not know if you are a member of the NRI Committee's policy working group please contact <a href="mailto:kristen.hildreth@ncsl.org">kristen.hildreth@ncsl.org</a> for more information.

3:15 – 4:15 p.m. 404 AB	<p><b>What's the Buzz about E-Bikes?</b></p> <p>Half of all trips in the U.S. are three miles or less, but only 2 percent of those are made by bikes. However, electric bikes (or “e-bikes”) are catching on as an affordable and accessible option for transportation and recreation. Hear industry experts and policymakers discuss how states are moving to define e-bikes as bicycles in state law and safely incorporate e-bikes alongside motor vehicles, traditional bikes and pedestrians.</p> <p>Moderator:  <b>Douglas Shinkle</b>, transportation program director, NCSL</p> <p>Speakers:  <b>Alex Logemann</b>, director of state and local policy, PeopleForBikes  <b>Morgan Lommele</b>, e-bikes campaigns manager, PeopleForBikes  <b>Senator Todd d. Weiler</b>, Utah</p>
4:15– 5:15 p.m. 404 AB	<p><b>Housing and Transit: A Practical Pair?</b></p> <p>Over past decade, many states and communities, including California, have experienced a significant rise in the cost of housing. The causes are wide-ranging, highly variable and dependent on local circumstances, and solving this problem will require a host of solutions. California State Senator Scott Weiner is attempting to provide more affordable housing by increasing the housing stock near existing transit structures. Learn about his proposal, lessons learned and next steps on this intractable issue.</p> <p>Moderator:  <b>Steve Rauschenberger</b>, former NCSL president and Illinois state senator</p> <p>Panelist:  <b>Senator Scott Wiener</b>, California</p>
5:30 – 7:00 p.m. JW Marriott LA LIVE!	<p><b>Networking Reception</b></p> <p>Feel the vibrancy of Los Angeles with the opening reception at the JW Marriott LA LIVE! Feel as though you’ve been transported to wine country as you experience a California wine tasting inside the Gold Ballroom. As you make your way outside, you’ll enjoy sights and sounds typical of LA’s iconic Olvera Street. Revel in the LA sunshine while networking with peers at this exciting event that is within walking distance of the convention center. You must have your badge to enter.</p>
<b>Tuesday, July 31</b>	
9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Hall K	<p><b>General Session – Healthy Workplaces: Culture Trumps Compliance</b></p> <p>As organizations across the country grapple with charges of harassment and other challenges, the national conversation has turned to workplace culture. Hear from Johnny Taylor Jr., president and CEO of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), about the importance of workplace culture, especially in environments with complicated power dynamics like those inherent in state legislatures. Learn why the underlying culture is even more</p>

	<p>essential than rules and enforcement, and how to create a safer and more respectful workplace.</p> <p>Speaker:  <b>Johnny Taylor</b>, president and CEO, Society of Human Resource Management</p>
<p>10:15 – 12 p.m.  404 AB</p>	<p><b>NRI Committee Business Meeting</b></p> <p>All legislators and legislative staff are encouraged to attend the Business Meeting and consider Policy Directives and Resolutions that will guide the NRI Committee's advocacy efforts before Congress and the administration. Join us as the committee debates and votes on policies that guide the Committee's advocacy work in Washington D.C.</p> <p>Presiding:  <b>Representative Curt A. McCormack</b>, Vermont, co-chair, NRI Committee  <b>Representative Ed Orcutt</b>, Washington, co-chair, NRI Committee</p>
<p>12:15 – 1:15 p.m.  404 AB</p>	<p><b>Increasing Consumer Access to Cleaner, Healthier and Cheaper Fuels</b></p> <p>Americans drove more than 300 billion miles last year, emitting almost 1 billion tons of carbon dioxide. Over 90 percent of all gasoline is blended with 10 percent ethanol, resulting in cleaner air and reduced fuel costs. Join us for a lunchtime discussion of how we can continue to both reduce carbon dioxide and ozone forming emissions while reducing the price of gasoline at the pump, all without having to tell people to stop driving.</p> <p>Moderator:  <b>Senator Deb Peters</b>, South Dakota, president, NCSL Executive Committee</p> <p>Panelists:  <b>Michael Lorenz</b>, executive vice president of petroleum supply, Sheetz Inc.  <b>Angela Tin</b>, vice president environmental health, American Lung Association</p> <p><i>NCSL is grateful for ADM's support for this session.</i></p>
<p>1:30 – 2:45 p.m.  404 AB</p>	<p><b>CAFE Standards – Where Are We, and What's Coming?</b></p> <p>In April 2017, EPA announced that the existing national motor vehicle greenhouse emission standards were "not appropriate" and that it would issue revised requirements. This could result in a split between the federal government and California (along with a coalition of 12 states and District of Columbia). Join our panel discussion for an in-depth look at this issue, its potential impact on states and consumers, and what it means for the automobile industry.</p>



	<p>Panelists:  <b>Analisa Bevan</b>, assistant division chief, California Air Resources Board  <b>Steve Douglas</b>, senior director of environmental affairs, Auto Alliance  <b>Ed Regan</b>, senior vice president, CDM Smith</p>
<p>3:00 – 4:15 p.m.  404 AB</p>	<p><b>State Regulation of Drones – Establishing the Rules of the Road</b></p> <p>Over the past two years, drones have gone from a technology that many in the industry argued should be solely regulated by the federal government to one over which states have clear authority to regulate and interests in promoting. This panel will bring together current and former federal officials, drone technology companies, and state officials who have successfully welcomed this technology into their state while also creating frameworks for effective regulation and economic development.</p> <p>Moderator:  <b>Assemblymember Jacqui V. Irwin</b>, California</p> <p>Panelists:  <b>Reggie Govan</b>, former chief counsel, Federal Aviation Administration  <b>Basil Yap</b>, UAS program manager, NC Department of Transportation  <b>Greg McNeal</b>, professor of law and public policy, Pepperdine School of Law</p>
<p>4:15 – 5:00 p.m.  404 AB</p>	<p><b>Trends in State Transportation Funding</b></p> <p>One of the most talked-about possibilities for federal action in 2018 is a new infrastructure bill that would help inject what nearly all experts agree is a significant boost of funds for many of our national infrastructure systems. However, it remains unclear how such a package would provide this funding, and most important, what types of projects would be eligible. Join our panel of top infrastructure experts for the latest information and its impact on your state.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, August 1</b></p>	
<p>9 – 9:45 a.m.  Petree CD</p>	<p><b>Setting the State' Agenda (Business) Meeting Breakfast</b></p> <p>During the Setting the States Agenda and Annual Business Meeting, legislators and legislative staff will elect the NCSL officers and Executive Committee for 2018-2019, approve the Conference's Budget for 2019 and consider changes to NCSL's By-Laws. Following the Business portion, all legislators will consider the policy directives and resolutions that were reported from the NCSL Standing Committees and that, if approved, will form the States' Agenda in Washington, guiding NCSL's advocacy effort before Congress and the administration.</p>
<p>10:00 – 11:30 a.m.  502 B</p>	<p><b>Energy Innovation: Can the U.S. Beat its Global Competitors?</b></p> <p>Nations across the globe are jockeying to become leaders in exploding new energy markets. While leading in natural gas and oil production, the U.S. has ceded leadership in the expanding solar and wind technologies markets—industries where the nation was once a trailblazer. How will the U.S. remain</p>

	<p>competitive? Learn the answers during this exploration of global energy technology and policy trends.</p> <p>Speaker:  <b>Tom Kiernan</b>, CEO, American Wind Energy Association</p>
<p>11:30 – 1:45 p.m.  <i>Hall G</i></p>	<p><b>Exhibit Hall Luncheon</b></p> <p>Enjoy a delicious lunch with your colleagues and visit exhibitors from around the nation with interesting information and policy perspectives.</p>
<p>2:00 – 3:15 p.m.  <i>308 AB</i></p>	<p><b>Natural Disasters: How Data Helps Build Resilience</b></p> <p>Explore the latest geographic information systems technology in this interactive session. Learn how states can use these and other data to prioritize investments and craft policies that foster collaboration across state agencies to mitigate risk and recover faster from natural disasters.</p> <p>Speakers:  <b>Richard M. Leadbeater</b>, global solutions manager, state, Provincial Government Industry, Esri  <b>Anne Stauffer</b>, director fiscal federalism, Pew Charitable Trusts  <b>Dr. James K. Wolfenbarger</b>, manager civil programs, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory</p>
<p>2:00 – 3:15 p.m.  <i>502 B</i></p>	<p><b>What's at Stake in the Evolving Electricity Market</b></p> <p>States face difficult decisions regarding the nation's energy supply. Low natural gas and renewable prices are forcing nuclear and coal plants to close and new technologies are changing the way energy is produced. Experts will discuss the upending market dynamic and the questions it raises about the reliability of energy sources, impacts on state economies, resiliency of U.S. infrastructure and the role of states, federal agencies and the energy industry.</p> <p>Speaker:  <b>James Bushnell</b>, energy economics professor, University of California, Davis  <b>Rick Thigpen</b>, senior vice president – corporate citizenship, PSEG Services Corp  <b>Susan Tierney</b>, senior advisor, Analysis Group, Inc.</p>
<p>3:30 – 4:45 p.m.  <i>502 B</i></p>	<p><b>America's Drinking Water: Is it Safe?</b></p> <p>Nearly 294 million Americans receive their water from the 170,000 public water systems governed by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The rest of the country relies on private wells and other sources. When contaminants make water undrinkable—whether it comes from public systems like the one in Flint, Michigan, or from private wells—states are forced to respond. This session will explore how states and the federal government work to protect the country's drinking water.</p> <p>Panelist:  <b>Brian Hubbard</b>, health scientist, Center for Disease Control and Prevention</p>

	<b>Ben Stanford</b> , senior director of water research and development, American Water
<b>Thursday, August 2</b>	
8:00 – 9:30 a.m. <i>Hall K</i>	<p><b>General Session – It’s All About Country: Politics, Polling and Pop Culture</b></p> <p>Explore what America is thinking with nationally renowned pollsters Margie Omero and Kristen Soltis Anderson as Nashville sets the stage for next year’s Summit. Enjoy a scrumptious, southern-style breakfast while Omero and Soltis Anderson share how the numbers reveal the public’s mindset on news, politics and pop culture. You won’t want to miss the bipartisan team that co-hosts the top-200 podcast, “The Pollsters,” while getting a peek at what’s in store at next year’s Summit in Nashville.</p> <p>Speakers:  <b>Margie Omero</b>, GBA Strategies  <b>Kristen Soltis Anderson</b>, Echelon Insights</p>
9:45 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. <i>502 B</i>	<p><b>Strengthening Rural Communities</b></p> <p>The divide between rural and urban culture and priorities is being felt across the country, including in state legislatures. As urban areas continue to grow, rural legislators increasingly find themselves having to explain the needs of rural constituents to their urban counterparts. This interactive session includes audience polling and a facilitated discussion about rural demographics and other data, with a look at how legislatures have addressed the needs of rural communities. You’ll learn about: state innovations and successes that promote rural development; legislative options and promising state strategies to improve rural initiatives; and how to clarify the rural voice within the policymaking process.</p> <p>Moderator:  <b>P.J. Huffstuffer</b>, agriculture reporter, Reuters News</p> <p>Speaker:  <b>Chris Mehl</b>, Headwaters Institute  <b>Senator Jerry Sonnenberg</b>, Colorado</p>

**From:** NCSL TODAY  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 12, 2018 10:55 AM  
**To:** Griffin, Lisa  
**Subject:** Self-driving carmakers want Congress to free them from state safety standards

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** PRR

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## TOP NEWS July 12, 2018

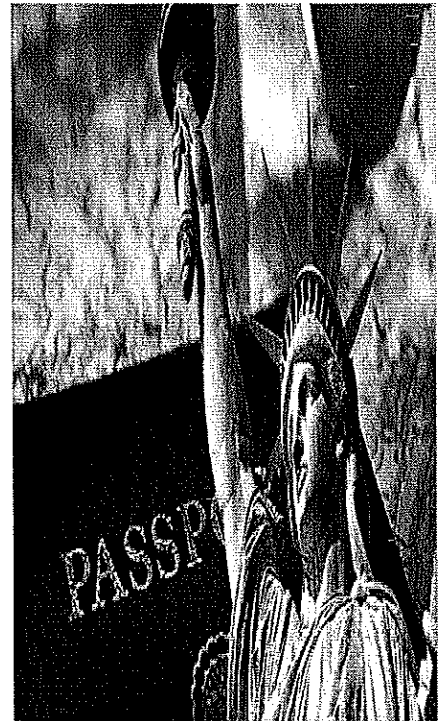
### Self-driving carmakers want Congress to free them from state safety standards

*The Los Angeles Times*

As Silicon Valley and automakers attempt to steer the nation toward a future of driverless vehicles, a group of influential lawmakers remains concerned that bipartisan legislation now moving through Congress could leave consumers at risk by preventing states from demanding tighter safety regulations. **NCSL data cited.**

[NCSL research on self-driving vehicle legislation.](#)

### Report: Hate crimes rise in California for third straight year



*The Los Angeles Times*

There were 1,093 reported hate crimes in California in 2017, a 17.4 percent increase, according to a report released Monday by the California attorney general's office. Hate crimes have increased annually since 2014, jumping roughly 44 percent in that three-year span, records show.

### **Alabama lawmakers consider outlawing leaving pets in hot car**

*AL.com*

Alabama could see a new law against leaving pets in hot cars after overwhelming public outcry over the death of a dog in Trussville last week. And according to one of the state's highest-ranking lawmakers, that new law might also allow for the smashing of car windows to save a trapped animal.

### **U.S. targeted breastfeeding abroad. Here at home it's another story**

*Stateline*

The U.S. position on a resolution to support breastfeeding counters domestic legislation.

### **Could Missouri's right-to-work vote be a 'turnaround' for labor?**

*Kansas City Star*

As state after state adopts right-to-work laws, national unions are hoping Missouri is the "wall" that the policy's supporters can't get through. **NCSL data cited.**

[NCSL resources on right-to-work laws.](#)



### **U.S. immigration: A primer for state policy makers**

This primer for policymakers is intended to provide a clear and concise introduction to current immigration and refugee policy, trends in state immigration legislation, and key studies that seek to assess fiscal and economic impacts of immigrants in the United States.



=A

### **Webinar July 17: Bill information service training**

### **Webinar 2 p.m. (ET) TODAY: Suspension and expulsion in early years**

### **Traffic safety trends - 2017 legislative action**



### **Hawaii bans coral-harming sunscreen**

## Unions could no longer get Medicaid money under new Trump proposal

*Governing*

The federal government wants to roll back an Obama-era rule that lets some Medicaid payments go toward unions that represent home health care workers -- one of the fastest-growing and lowest-paid jobs.

Hawaii just became the first state to ban sunscreens harmful to coral reefs.



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7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230

**From:** Ben Husch  
**Sent:** Friday, July 13, 2018 12:14 PM  
**To:** Griffin, Lisa  
**CC:** Kristen Hildreth; Jennifer Schultz  
**Subject:** RE: Update and Reminder: NRI Committee Call, Wednesday July 18 at 3 PM ET/ 2 PM CT/ 1PM MT/ Noon PT  
**Attachments:** DRAFT - NRI Policies for Review.pdf; DRAFT - NRI Legislative Summit Agenda.pdf



JULY 30 - AUGUST 2 | 2018

Members of the Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee,

As a reminder, we will host a **full committee conference call on Wednesday, July 18 at 3pm ET/2pm CT/1pm MT/noon PT**. The call will provide an opportunity for all committee members to review both the committee's agenda and the policy resolutions and amendments the committee will consider at its business meeting on Tuesday, July 31 from 10:15 AM – Noon.

**An updated agenda, and policy booklet is attached for you to review at your leisure – please use THESE documents, as the policy booklet contains an existing policy resolution staff forgot to include.** Call in information is below:

866-939-8416  
2757160#

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact myself, Kristen or Jen.

– NRI Committee Staff



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**NCSL Standing Committee on Natural Resources and  
Infrastructure**

**POLICY DIRECTIVES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**2018 NCSL Legislative Summit  
Los Angeles, California**

**Table of Contents**

<b>AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>BLACK VULTURE .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>STATE SOVEREIGNTY IN AIR AMBULANCE REGULATION .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>ANIMAL AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>AVIATION .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>NATIONAL AGRICULTURE .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>ENCOURAGING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE EMERGING CONSERVATION ECONOMY.....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>OFFSHORE DRILLING .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>OPPOSITION TO THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S PROPOSED ROLLBACK OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSION STANDARDS.....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>RENEWABLE ENERGY.....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>REDUCING BARRIERS OF SMART COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE ADVANCEMENT .....</b>	<b>41</b>

1   **COMMITTEE:**           **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**  
2   **POLICY:**             **AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES**  
3   **TYPE:**               **RESOLUTION**

4   The automobile is on the cusp of a technological transformation with the potential to  
5   both revolutionize personal mobility and provide immeasurable safety benefits. As  
6   vehicles that operate on public roads are subject to both state, federal and local  
7   jurisdiction, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) understands the  
8   need to clearly define state and federal roles as well as avoid unnecessary federal  
9   preemption and burdensome federal mandates.

10

11   **State Authority to Regulate Autonomous Vehicle Testing**

12   NCSL agrees that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) should  
13   be the sole entity setting federal motor vehicle safety standards (FMVSS) for  
14   autonomous vehicles, equivalent to their current role for conventional vehicles.  
15   However, NCSL strongly believes that states are the sole authority when it comes to  
16   vehicle use—which includes vehicle registration; driver licensing and education; traffic  
17   laws, regulations and enforcement; and insurance and liability. NCSL is opposed to  
18   congressional or administration proposals that would seek to preempt this authority from  
19   states by prohibiting states from prescribing certain standards or regulations related to  
20   autonomous vehicle testing, including requirements related to the presence of a human  
21   driver.

22

23   **FMVSS Exemptions**

24   NCSL recognizes, appreciates, and agrees that authority to issue exemptions of  
25   FMVSS remains solely in the realm of the Secretary of Transportation. However, NCSL  
26   strongly encourages the Secretary (or applicable designated agency) to ensure that any  
27   exemption of existing motor vehicle safety standards provides a safety level at least

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

28 equal to the safety level of the standard. Further, as exemptions are granted, NCSL  
29 implores the department to provide such information to states, in a timely manner.

30

### 31 **Advisory Councils**

32 NCSL requests that state legislators be appointed to or included in any congressional or  
33 administration task force, council, or other advisory group related to the development of  
34 autonomous vehicles. NCSL encourages congressional and administration task forces  
35 to work with NCSL to help ensure the appropriate states are included.

36

### 37 **Cybersecurity Information Sharing**

38 Cybersecurity is a vital aspect of autonomous vehicles. As vehicles begin to  
39 communicate with each other (vehicle-to-vehicle or V2V) as well with infrastructure  
40 (vehicle-to-infrastructure, V2I, and V2X), the potential risk of cyberattacks and security  
41 breaches greatly increases. NCSL urges both the administration and Congress to both  
42 share any threat information with state governments and to work with states to ensure  
43 that such threats and affected vehicle populations do not become endemic. A  
44 collaborative effort is vital in ensuring such safety.

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

1   **COMMITTEE:**           **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

2   **POLICY:**               **BLACK VULTURE**

3   **TYPE:**                 **RESOLUTION**

4   **WHEREAS**, the Black Vulture is a scavenger and feeds primarily on already-dead  
5   animals; and,

6

7   **WHEREAS**, they also feed on living animals, often attacking birthing animals; and,

8

9   **WHEREAS**, the species has proliferated over the last 30 years and broadened its  
10   geographical range; and,

11

12   **WHEREAS**, maintenance of the species must take into consideration that the Black  
13   Vulture is protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; and,

14

15   **WHEREAS**, the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) is authorized, under certain  
16   conditions, to issue a depredation permit for Black Vultures; and,

17

18   **WHEREAS**, USFWS has developed pilot programs in Tennessee and Kentucky in  
19   which a single, statewide depredation permit is granted for each state; and,

20

21   **WHEREAS**, the holder of the statewide permit is authorized to include persons seeking  
22   relief from the damage caused by Black Vultures; and,

23

24   **WHEREAS**, the authorized "sub-permittees" are bound by all the terms of the primary  
25   permit.

26

27   **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Conference of State  
28   Legislatures (NCSL), calls upon USFWS to make a transition in the statewide

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

29 depredation permit process from pilot program to standard operational procedure in the  
30 management of Black Vultures; and,

31

32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that USFWS, in each state that is experiencing livestock  
33 predation/injury from Black Vultures, determine the appropriate state agriculture/wildlife  
34 agency or non-governmental organization (NGO) recognized for farm advocacy and  
35 award that agency/NGO the aforementioned permit.

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

1   **COMMITTEE:**           **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**  
2   **POLICY:**               **CLIMATE CHANGE**  
3   **TYPE:**                 **RESOLUTION**

4   The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) urges the federal government to  
5   consult with state elected officials, their national representative organizations and  
6   existing interstate partnerships in developing a federal program. As Congress and the  
7   administration examine proposals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, NCSL  
8   encourages the federal government to always take the following principles into account:

- 9       • Federal action should be flexible, allowing for a range of complementary  
10       strategies at the state and federal level maintaining a strong role for state, local  
11       and tribal government in any federal action.
- 12       • Federal legislation should provide states the authority and flexibility to work within  
13       an overall framework; to apply the law effectively to all sources of emissions and  
14       ensure achievement of climate change goals in the most cost effective, timely  
15       and efficient manner for each state.
- 16       • Federal legislation should not preempt state or local governments from enacting  
17       policy options that differ from federal choices or from enacting stricter or stronger  
18       measures within their jurisdiction.
- 19       • Federal legislation should afford states the flexibility to form regional  
20       cooperatives and implement innovative policies that advance federal efforts to  
21       reduce the effects of climate change.
- 22       • Congress must authorize and appropriate sufficient funds for federal, state and  
23       local governments to implement any federal legislation. These funds should be  
24       newly authorized appropriations, not reprogrammed resources.
- 25       • Federal legislation should ensure state legislative authority in any federal climate  
26       change legislation and affirm the active role played by state legislatures in both  
27       fiscal and substantive aspects of state policymaking.

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

- 28       • Federal legislation providing for the allocation of greenhouse gas reduction  
29       programs to states should include language making decisions related to such  
30       allowances subject to state legislative approval.  
31
- 32       NCSL urges the federal government, should it choose to act on this issue, to take into  
33       account the following principles regarding program design components:
- 34       • Any national system must include short, medium and long-term goals and  
35       incorporate a rigorous oversight program that provide for ongoing study and  
36       analysis of the system to ensure it is achieving intended goals.
- 37       • A new national program should serve to address uncertainties that are  
38       hampering investment in generation, transmission and distribution and enhance  
39       the likelihood that appropriate technologies will be developed and other solutions  
40       implemented so as to achieve the desired reductions in GHG emissions in the  
41       most economical manner possible.
- 42       • Federal legislation should be designed appropriately to balance competing  
43       criteria, including, but not limited to, equity, economic efficiency and ease of  
44       administration.
- 45       • Revenue derived from a greenhouse gas reduction program should be directed  
46       to complimentary policies focused on mitigating climate change consumer costs  
47       including but not limited to energy research & development, weatherization,  
48       conservation and energy efficiency activities.
- 49       • A national program to reduce GHG emissions must also address adaptation  
50       issues.
- 51       • Auctioning of allowances may be the most economically efficient mechanism for  
52       achieving a GHG emissions reductions goal. However, the allocation of  
53       emissions allowances at no cost can serve as an appropriate transition measure  
54       necessary to ensure continued reliability, minimize economic dislocation resulting  
55       from the carbon intensity of the existing infrastructure, and allow for development  
56       and deployment of needed new technologies and measures to reduce emissions.

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

- 57 • Priority distribution of allowances at no cost should be to those entities in affected  
58 sectors where existing regulatory structure provides the necessary oversight to  
59 ensure that the value of such allowances is accounted for in establishing price  
60 rates for consumers.
- 61 • The allocation of greenhouse gas reduction program to states under a federal  
62 greenhouse gas reduction program should include language making decisions  
63 related to such allowances subject to state legislative approval.
- 64 • The establishment of any new federal program should include provisions for  
65 transparent reporting and accountability and incorporate the use of third party  
66 verification to ensure reported outcomes are verifiable.

67

#### 68 **Unintended Consequences**

69 NCSL believes that federal legislation regarding the reduction of greenhouse gases  
70 should take into account the implications of actions and/or inactions on economic  
71 development, energy security, and those most vulnerable citizens. Evaluation should  
72 include the life cycle impacts of policy options including ancillary impacts.

73

74 NCSL believes that federal legislation should require continuing assessments of the  
75 potential impacts to the United States of climate change, by state or region including  
76 effects on water resources, agriculture, infrastructure, natural systems, environmental  
77 quality, public health, biodiversity and the cultures of our native peoples. Such an  
78 assessment will support the development of domestic and international adaptation-  
79 mitigation strategies. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should provide  
80 funding and assist states in developing assessments and adaptation plans at the state  
81 and regional level.

82

83 NCSL also urges the federal government to fully consider how legislation will affect low-  
84 income households that already struggle to balance needs and expenses. NCSL  
85 encourages the federal government to expand and enhance long-term funding for the  
86 Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program and to ensure that any new

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)



87 federal program does not undermine existing federal, state and private sector energy  
88 assistance and outreach programs that assist our most vulnerable citizens.

89

90 **Research and Development**

91 NCSL strongly urges the federal government to authorize and appropriate funding and  
92 provide other incentives to spur expanded research and development (R&D), as well as  
93 advance the demonstration and deployment of new and existing technologies to  
94 improve energy efficiency, advance mitigation strategies and reduce greenhouse gas  
95 emissions.

96

97 NCSL urges the federal government:

- 98 • To ensure that legislation not limit the diversity of technologies supported, as  
99 future advancements cannot be predicted.
- 100 • To take into account state and regional differences, and not limit or specify the  
101 technologies used in each state and ensure sufficient flexibility for each State to  
102 determine how to best achieve nationally-set goals.
- 103 • To promote current and future innovations and expand the use of such  
104 technology through R&D transfer agreements with other countries.

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

1     **COMMITTEE:**             **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

2     **POLICY:**                **STATE SOVEREIGNTY IN AIR AMBULANCE**

3                               **REGULATION**

4     **TYPE:**                 **RESOLUTION**

5     **WHEREAS**, as many rural hospitals have recently closed, air ambulance services have  
6     become increasingly necessary and are being used more frequently to transport  
7     patients to faraway hospitals in an emergency; and

8  
9     **WHEREAS**, competition among air ambulance services have increased costs; and

10

11    **WHEREAS**, air ambulance services can cost patients tens of thousands of dollars out-  
12    of-pocket when companies do not accept a patient's insurance, and emergency patients  
13    rarely have the capacity to choose their own air ambulance company; and

14

15    **WHEREAS**, some air ambulance companies refuse to reveal actual costs to insurers,  
16    and some insurers are unwilling to pay market value for the service; and

17

18    **WHEREAS**, federal government Medicare reimbursements cover only a small portion of  
19    the actual cost of an air ambulance, forcing air ambulance companies to charge patients  
20    more; and

21

22    **WHEREAS**, under the Airline Deregulation Act, states cannot regulate routes, services  
23    or prices of air ambulances.

24

25    **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Conference of State  
26    Legislatures (NCSL) supports state sovereignty in air ambulance regulation in order to  
27    protect patients from overwhelming financial burdens for emergency medical services;  
28    and,

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

29 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCSL urges Congress to amend the Airline  
30 Deregulation Act in order to provide states the authority to enforce insurance regulations  
31 on air ambulance providers to protect consumers.

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

1    **COMMITTEE:**                    **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

2    **POLICY:**                        **ANIMAL AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION**

3    **TYPE:**                          **DIRECTIVE**

4    The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) believes a strong animal  
5    production agriculture capacity is imperative in maintaining domestic and international  
6    consumer confidence in the safety of the United States meat supply.

7  
8    **Animal Identification**

9    NCSL believes a national animal identification program, if properly implemented in  
10   cooperation with the states and territories, could be beneficial in maintaining consumer  
11   confidence in meat from the United States, an invaluable tool in reducing and tracking  
12   future outbreaks of infectious disease, and serving as an important firewall against any  
13   attempted terrorist attack on the food production system in the United States.

14  
15   Any future effort by USDA to develop a national animal identification program must be  
16   designed and implemented in full consultation with state legislatures to ensure proper  
17   attention to public interest and financial considerations. Any program must be designed  
18   and implemented in cooperation with the departments of agriculture of the states and  
19   territories. USDA must work to ensure that any animal identification system is  
20   compatible with the current inspection and enforcement systems of the state  
21   governments. Any applicable federal program should not be applied to animals involved  
22   in intrastate commerce without state consultation.

23  
24   **\*\* Amendment \*\***

25   **Equine Industry and USDA Inspection of Horse Meat**

26   ~~The processing of horses has become a controversial and emotional issue, resulting in~~  
27   ~~the closure of the last horse processing facility in the United States. Without affordable~~  
28   ~~and economic alternatives, unwanted horses are abandoned. The nation's inadequate~~

29 and overburdened horse rescue and adoption facilities cannot begin to handle the  
30 influx. These additional unwanted horses will compete for adoption with wild horses that  
31 are currently fed and sheltered at a public expense. In the Western United States (US),  
32 the additional pressure on public lands from horses turned out to run wild is only  
33 intensifying the over-population, over-grazing, and ultimate destruction of the  
34 ecosystem.

35

36 **NCSL urges members of Congress to:**

- 37 • ~~Recognize the need for humane horse processing facilities in the United States.~~
- 38 • ~~Not to interfere with State efforts to establish facilities in the United States. State~~  
39 ~~livestock programs that were once able to recoup the costs of caring and feeding~~  
40 ~~for abandoned animals by marketing them, are now forced to greatly increase~~  
41 ~~their budgets at the expense of taxpayers.~~
- 42 • ~~Recognize the positive economic impact of willing market for the US horse~~  
43 ~~industry. These, and ethnic markets inside the US would appreciate an additional~~  
44 ~~source of high quality protein untainted by disease concerns of other species of~~  
45 ~~livestock.~~
- 46 • ~~Oppose legislation that would restrict the market, transport, processing, or export~~  
47 ~~of horses. Horse processing in the United States is particularly tightly regulated,~~  
48 ~~and the horse is the only animal whose transportation to processing is regulated.~~  
49 ~~Horse processing facilities in the United States are required to have United~~  
50 ~~States Department of Agriculture (USDA) veterinarians supervise the euthanasia,~~  
51 ~~and the euthanasia method is humane, according the American Veterinary~~  
52 ~~Medical Association and the United States Department of Agriculture.~~
- 53 • ~~Oppose limitations under federal appropriations law prohibiting the use of federal~~  
54 ~~dollars to be spent on the salaries of inspectors for ante and post mortem~~  
55 ~~inspections.~~

56

57 **\*\* Substitute Amendment\*\***

58 **Interstate Sale of State-Inspected Meat and Poultry**

59 The Farm Bill program authorizes USDA to promulgate rules to establish the  
60 parameters of the state programs. The proposed draft rule would allow these states to  
61 establish an interstate meat shipment program and request selected establishment  
62 status for those businesses who wish to remain state inspected, but wish to market  
63 products in interstate commerce. The creation of interstate sales of state-inspected  
64 meat and poultry programs will level the economic playing field for small business, spur  
65 more competition in the marketplace, create a more uniform inspection system, and  
66 enhance consumer confidence in the food supply—all of which will benefit farmers,  
67 ranchers, processors, small business, and consumers.

68

69 NCSL supports the establishment of interstate shipment of state-inspected meat and  
70 poultry programs in qualifying states, and urges USDA to create rules that facilitate the  
71 program.

1

1 **COMMITTEE: NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

2 **POLICY: AVIATION**

3 **TYPE: DIRECTIVE**

4 Aviation is a key component of a balanced transportation system and is vitally linked to  
5 regional growth and economic development efforts. The development and preservation  
6 of a balanced system of airports, which is responsive to the needs of all sectors of the  
7 nation, is the mutual responsibility of federal, state and local governments. Given this  
8 mutual responsibility, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) urges  
9 Congress and the administration to actively engage state legislatures in discussions on  
10 the development and preservation of our system of airports and to avoid federal  
11 mandates, preemption of state authority and where possible provide states maximum  
12 flexibility.

13

#### 14 **Finance**

15 The following recommendations regarding aviation financing are to be viewed as a  
16 comprehensive package and not as individual parts to be implemented piecemeal.  
17 Recognizing the safety, security, economic, and other broad public benefits of the  
18 services provided by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), NCSL supports efforts  
19 to:

- 20 • continue a General Fund contribution, due to military and federal usage of airport  
21 facilities and services. Maintain the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, financed by  
22 existing dedicated user taxes and charges, as the primary method of funding  
23 federal-aid aviation projects. Any federal aviation fees collected from airline ticket  
24 taxes that are diverted to non-aviation purposes should be rededicated or  
25 repealed. NCSL supports federal grant assurance provisions barring diversion of  
26 airport revenue to non-airport purposes;

- 27 • maintain the current structure of federal aviation taxes which equitably distributes
- 28 the financial burden on all users;
- 29 • continue to fully fund the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) at authorized levels
- 30 annually on a multi-year basis to help support needed safety, security, capacity
- 31 and noise projects;
- 32 • authorize states to use AIP funds for increased security measures required by
- 33 federal law at a 100-percent federal share;
- 34 • provide states maximum flexibility in the prioritization and administration of trust
- 35 fund allocations, this includes aviation-related planning activities being an
- 36 allowable expense;
- 37 • remove the Trust Fund from the federal unified budget;
- 38 • create a mechanism to guarantee that all revenue dedicated to the Trust Fund is
- 39 spent each year for its intended purpose and that Trust Fund revenue is
- 40 classified as "mandatory" spending and operate as a "pay-as-you-go" program;
- 41 • remove statutory or regulatory barriers to state and locally-generated revenues
- 42 that support airport activities;
- 43 • reduce aircraft noise and a continued set-aside of AIP funds for noise abatement
- 44 projects;
- 45 • continue the Passenger Facility Charges (PFCs) as a supplementary revenue
- 46 source to finance airport needs;
- 47 • exempt from federal tax laws airport municipal bonds; and
- 48 • allow the use of innovative financing methods, such as state infrastructure banks
- 49 and revolving loans, whenever possible to enable states to meet the funding
- 50 needs of smaller airports.

51

#### 52 **State Block Grant Program**

53 The state block grant program should be extended and expanded so that all states are  
54 eligible to participate. NCSL believes that the program should be structured to allow  
55 states the maximum flexibility in the administration of grants.

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)



56

57 **Development**

58 NCSL supports a coordinated national plan of development as long as state plans for  
59 investment are included. As part of the development of the National Airspace System  
60 Architecture, the FAA should make every effort to consider state input. The economies  
61 of many parts of the country are dependent on the modernization of the nation's aviation  
62 system. Federal policies should support state efforts to address capacity problems  
63 through expansion. NCSL supports the increased use of former and current military  
64 airports to provide immediate capacity relief for the aviation system.

65

66 **Regulation**

67 NCSL supports efforts to increase airport capacity and competition within the airline  
68 industry. However, NCSL remains concerned over the preservation of state authority  
69 over certain airline actions and practices. An examination should be made of other  
70 provisions of law that pertain to the ability of the state to regulate or enforce airport  
71 safety standards and practice.

72

73 **Federal-Aid Program**

74 NCSL supports the Essential Air Service (EAS) program and urges the federal  
75 government to honor its commitment to EAS. Where EAS is terminated, proper and  
76 adequate notification to the affected community should be required and transition plans  
77 implemented.

78

79 **Organized Deployment of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)**

80 Registrations of unmanned aircraft already outnumber manned aircraft which highlights  
81 the exponential growth of this technology. Although FAA has issued operational rules  
82 for commercial operators (Part 107) and is studying the potential expansion of  
83 operational rules through the drone Integration Pilot Program, they have yet to finalize  
84 formal operational rules and regulations pertaining to the use of UAS by hobbyists. This  
85 has resulted in a type of frontier mentality for use and judgment in that air space.

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

86

87 As the agency continues its work to integrate UAS rules and laws, NCSL recognizes  
88 FAA's general authority over the national airspace but believes it is imperative to  
89 preserve the authority of state governments to issue reasonable restrictions on the time,  
90 manner and place of UAS operations as they relate to states' traditional police powers,  
91 including to protect public safety and security, personal privacy, property rights and  
92 manage land use. In response to Congress imposing a nationwide registration  
93 requirement for UAS operators, NCSL supports the delegation of this authority to states  
94 in order to more effectively and efficiently capture all users. Further, NCSL strongly  
95 believes in the need for federal and state governments to work together to manage the  
96 organized deployment of recreational and commercial UAS and that states should be  
97 allowed to conduct enforcement of federal UAS rules if they so choose and that the  
98 federal government should ensure adequate resources be available to states for proper  
99 enforcement.

100

101 **Other**

102 Federal support for research and development of facilities and equipment is critical to  
103 meet the demands of the next century's air travelers. Reforms in the FAA technology  
104 procurement process should be considered.

105

106 NCSL urges Congress to act expeditiously on program reauthorizations so as to ensure  
107 continuity and to minimize negative effects bred by short-term extensions of critical  
108 programs.

1    **COMMITTEE:**                    **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

2    **POLICY:**                        **NATIONAL AGRICULTURE**

3    **TYPE:**                          **POLICY DIRECTIVE**

4    The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) believes that maintaining a  
5    strong production agriculture capacity is critical to our nation's strength and is a matter  
6    of national security. NCSL recognizes that decisions affecting American agriculture  
7    must reflect a working partnership of the federal government with the states in both the  
8    formulation and implementation of policy.

9

10   **Agricultural Fiscal Policy**

11   NCSL urges federal efforts designed to enhance farm income while increasing  
12   agricultural exports. Monetary policies must be implemented which promote low interest  
13   rates and maintain dollar exchange rates which enhance the potential for sale of this  
14   nation's commodities in international markets. The federal government must also  
15   maintain a stable financial network capable of supplying adequate amounts of  
16   affordable credit to the agricultural industry. The government must also continue to  
17   search for innovative financing tools which enhance the ability of agricultural producers  
18   to manage risk and stabilize income. In addition, any domestic farm program must work  
19   in conjunction with a strong, aggressive export program which protects and expands our  
20   export markets.

21

22   State legislators should be represented on any working or study group for the purpose  
23   of addressing long term agriculture lending and payment needs established by  
24   Congress or the executive branch. NCSL urges Congress to review the existing  
25   payment limitations for individual farmers and program eligibility requirements to ensure  
26   that they provide support to economically efficient farming operations and promote the  
27   preservation of the family farm. In addition, the Conference recommends that all federal  
28   agricultural adjustment payments, price-support program loans, payments and other

29 benefits not related to soil conservation efforts be limited to citizens of this country or  
30 aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

31

32 **Secondary Market for Long-Term Loans:** NCSL urges the federal government to  
33 work with states to assure that the provisions of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987  
34 continue to be fully implemented.

35

36 **Bankruptcy law:** NCSL supports federal legislation to permanently extend allowing  
37 farm operations to declare Chapter 12 bankruptcy.

38

39 **Farm Credit System (FCS):** NCSL encourages farm credit institutions to work with  
40 farmer-borrowers to restructure debt. NCSL urges that any disposition of land and  
41 assets held by the System or its units be conducted in an orderly fashion so that such  
42 disposition does not adversely affect the value of those assets or of other property  
43 within the community. NCSL also urges that FCS institutions continue to work with  
44 producers to provide necessary financing for changes in payments and crops resulting  
45 from adjustments to federal programs.

46

47 **Commercial Lending Institutions:** NCSL believes that as federal financial assistance  
48 is provided to member institutions of the FCS, assistance should also be provided to  
49 commercial lending institutions that provide credit to agriculture. Furthermore, Federal  
50 Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) policies and federal bank regulation procedures  
51 must be reviewed to ensure that the maximum assistance is being provided to troubled  
52 borrowers, without compromising the safety and soundness of the institution or the  
53 assets of the FDIC.

54

55 **Agricultural Bonds:** NCSL supports exempting agricultural bonds from the federal  
56 volume cap placed on industrial revenue bonds in each state. Furthermore, NCSL  
57 recommends that the President and U.S. Congress amend the federal Internal Revenue  
58 Code to make the use of agricultural bonds more attractive to banks and other financial

59 institutions. NCSL also recommends that the federal government permit deductibility for  
60 loans financed by issuers that are not necessarily small issuers as defined by the  
61 Internal Revenue Code.

62

63 **Crop Insurance:** NCSL supports a state-federal partnership to develop a fair and  
64 affordable crop insurance program that complements other risk management tools  
65 available in the marketplace for all crops. NCSL supports an efficient program that  
66 promotes informed production and management decisions. NCSL also supports federal  
67 efforts to encourage private-sector development of innovative risk management tools.  
68 However, any plan for crop insurance must not adversely impact a state's ability to levy  
69 premium taxes, regulate the business of private insurance or set solvency standards for  
70 private crop insurers.

71

## 72 **Marketing**

73 NCSL seeks a federal policy that will sustain a vibrant agricultural marketplace and  
74 strong farm economy while providing for competition and fair practices. The federal  
75 government should cooperate fully with states' efforts to supplement private sector  
76 marketing programs by providing comprehensive marketing, promotion and market  
77 development activities. These should include, at a minimum, sustained commitments to  
78 the provision of data on market trends and consumer demands, technical assistance,  
79 financial assistance and public education campaigns.

80

81 Special emphasis must be placed upon the development of new markets through the  
82 creation of demand for new crops or products or additional sources of demand for  
83 existing commodities and products; the improvement of linkages between buyers and  
84 sellers; a shift toward the sale of processed, not raw, commodities and high value cash  
85 crops; and the identification and analysis of potential markets. All parties, both public  
86 and private sector, must work together to develop effective strategies to exploit those  
87 opportunities fully and to maintain an ongoing ability to respond to changing consumer  
88 demands.

89

90 **Direct Marketing Arrangements:** NCSL recommends that Congress review the  
91 Packers and Stockyards Act as a mechanism for addressing unfair practices that may  
92 occur under direct marketing arrangements, monitor activities in this area, and enact  
93 appropriate and timely legislation to safeguard the welfare of producers. NCSL urges  
94 Congress and USDA to strengthen and diligently enforce the provisions of the Packers  
95 and Stockyards Act in concert with the clear intent of the Act to curb monopolistic  
96 abuses in the concentrated meatpacking sector.

97

#### 98 **Competition**

99 Family farmers ultimately derive their income from the agricultural marketplace.  
100 Congress must set rules to improve the competitive environment of agriculture so that  
101 farmers are able to retain a greater portion of their income.

102

#### 103 **Natural Resource Conservation**

104 All federal government actions affecting natural resources should be conducted in close  
105 cooperation and only after consultation and coordination with the states. A strong  
106 commitment to conduct research, in the area of improved methods of natural resource  
107 conservation and protection, must be maintained. The federal government should work  
108 with state and local governments to develop agricultural land use policies, but should  
109 leave the responsibility for establishment of these policies to the state and local  
110 governments. NCSL favors a block grant approach that gives states maximum flexibility.  
111 NCSL supports the use of science, technology and effective practices to reduce nutrient  
112 losses to water, including nitrogen and phosphorus, from point and nonpoint sources.

113

114 We encourage significant federal investment in state-supported projects -- with an  
115 emphasis on watershed-based public-private partnerships -- that provide for  
116 accountability and transparency, as evidenced by the establishment of goals, timelines,  
117 milestones, monitoring, measurement and regular public reporting documenting  
118 improvements in the quality of water in public waterways. Fundamentally, NCSL

119 believes that states must be given a much stronger voice in ensuring that federal  
120 wetlands, endangered species, and land management policies respect the rights of  
121 local landowners and states.

122

### 123 **Wetlands and Endangered Species**

124 The federal government should delegate authority to states for the development,  
125 administration, and enforcement of wetlands protection and endangered species  
126 programs. The national government, acting through USDA, should set broad national  
127 goals and standards for wetlands protection and preservation of endangered species,  
128 but states should have the flexibility to meet those goals. The federal government,  
129 furthermore, should provide financial and technical assistance as incentives to  
130 encourage states to assume primacy over wetlands and endangered species programs.

131

### 132 **Pollinator Health**

133 NCSL recognizes the importance of pollinators and stresses the negative ramifications  
134 of continued pollinator loss, while supporting federal efforts to protect pollinators. We  
135 also recognize the key roles that the federal government plays as a landowner and  
136 manager, regulator of pesticide products, and financial and technical assistance  
137 provider to farmers and other private landowners. As such NCSL supports and calls  
138 upon the federal government to:

- 139 • develop best management practices and enhance pollinator habitat on  
140 federally owned or managed lands;
- 141 • incorporate pollinator health as a component of all future federal restoration  
142 and reclamation projects;
- 143 • revise guidance documents for designed landscapes and public buildings in  
144 order to incorporate pollinator-friendly practices;
- 145 • Increase both the acreage and forage value of pollinator habitat in the  
146 Conservation Reserve Program and other federal conservation programs;  
147 provide technical assistance in collaboration with land-grant university-based

148 cooperative extension services to federal departments and agencies, state,  
149 local, and tribal governments, and other entities and individuals including  
150 farmers and ranchers;  
151 • assist states and state wildlife organizations, as appropriate, in identifying and  
152 implementing projects to conserve pollinators through the revision and  
153 implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans;  
154 • assess the effects of systemic pesticides and parasites on bee and other  
155 pollinator health and take corresponding action, as appropriate, to protect  
156 pollinators from pesticides and parasites;  
157 • take immediate measures to support pollinators with proper habitat and  
158 nutrition during the current growing season and thereafter, including planting  
159 pollinator-friendly vegetation, increasing flower diversity in plantings, limiting  
160 mowing practices, and reduce or avoid, when necessary, the use of  
161 pesticides in sensitive pollinator habitats through the use of integrated  
162 vegetation, pest and colony management practices; and  
163 • work closely with the states to align pollinator protection efforts and share  
164 best practices.  
165  
166 NCSL and the states identify as willing partners in the federal government's pollinator  
167 protection efforts and will closely monitor federal actions and progress on these, and  
168 related efforts of utmost importance to the states and our nation's food supply, urban  
169 and rural agriculture economies, environment and natural resources.

## 171 **Land Management**

172 Devolution of authority to states should also be a goal of federal land management  
173 policies. Demonstration projects should be established to determine if state  
174 administration of national forests, grasslands, parks and other federal property will result  
175 in cost savings to taxpayers and greater sensitivity to the concerns of local citizens and  
176 property owners. NCSL, moreover, encourages Congress and federal agencies to hold



177 hearings and public meetings in order to hear the concerns of state and local officials  
178 and of ordinary citizens and property holders regarding the impact of federal  
179 landownership and regulation.

180

#### 181 **Soil Conservation**

182 NCSL supports an ongoing education program to make certain that producers are fully  
183 aware of the need for proper soil conservation practices and of the best methods to use  
184 in their implementation. Diligent efforts must be made by the federal government to  
185 ensure that proper soil conservation practices are adopted and that fragile, erodible land  
186 is protected.

187

188 NCSL supports requiring that each farm have and follow an approved soil and water  
189 conservation plan in order to obtain government assistance. Benefits may be denied if a  
190 crop is grown in violation of this requirement. Further, NCSL supports continued  
191 extension of the Conservation Reserve Program and federal efforts to protect  
192 pollinators, including those that are vital to American food production.

193

#### 194 **Cover Crop Research**

195 NCSL supports federal efforts to further the development of and proliferation and use of  
196 cover crops given the growing concerns about water quality, soil fertility, weed control,  
197 nematode control, water retention and biodiversity. NCSL recognizes that cover crops  
198 have proven to increase yields in university studies as well as in replicated farm  
199 research; are an increasingly popular way to keep soil healthy; helps reduce the need  
200 for Nitrogen and other nutrients, and create a healthier soil environment that resists  
201 disease and pests; inhibit weed growth by shading them out, by preventing emergence,  
202 and by compounds exuded by the roots; are shown to reduce populations of pathogenic  
203 nematodes and encourage populations of beneficial ones; break up soil compaction  
204 whether it is naturally occurring or a result of heavy cultivation and tillage; add diversity  
205 to the natural biological life in heavily farmed soils, often working in synergy with cash

crops for bottom line benefits; add diversity to the natural biological life in heavily farmed soils, often working in synergy with cash crops for bottom line benefits.

### **Research and Development**

NCSL supports the state-federal partnership in agricultural research at state universities. Furthermore, funds must be made available to support research and development of innovative products. Funds should also be used for dissemination of information about research discoveries both domestically and abroad. It is particularly important that the land grant universities maintain their commitment to agricultural research and development and that the federal government provide sufficient research dollars to support this vital effort.

NCSL urges the federal government to maintain a strong research program for the development of adequate, cost-effective and environmentally sound control measures to ensure the eradication of all insect and plant pests and animal diseases, which should be done in close cooperation with the states. Using existing mechanisms and institutions, the federal government should work with the states in providing the basic training and retraining opportunities necessary for the successful operation of an agricultural enterprise and for the continuing adjustment of producers to changing conditions in agriculture.

### **Intellectual Property Rights in Publicly Funded Research**

NCSL calls on Congress to review the Bayh-Dole Act of 1980 and subsequent amendments for its impact on encouraging concentration and vertical integration within the agricultural sector, and for its consistency with the mission and purpose of the Land Grant College system. Further, Congress should increase federal support for agricultural research, and retain through grant and contract provisions greater portions of technology arising from such research within the public domain. Congress should also affirm as objectives of the Land Grant Colleges' agricultural research mission to achieve broad dissemination and producer access to crop technology, and preserve

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[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

236 and enhance the income and economic opportunities of producers.

237

#### 238 **Beginning Farmer Programs**

239 NCSL supports a state-federal partnership to confront challenges faced by farmers and  
240 beginning farmers, including the use of federal tax incentives to support state-based  
241 development and loan programs. NCSL supports changes to the federal Internal  
242 Revenue code that reduce borrowing costs for qualifying farmers and strengthen state  
243 beginning farmer programs. NCSL is particularly supportive of beginning farmer and  
244 other training programs that provide assistance for military veterans and limited-  
245 resource farmers. Furthermore, NCSL supports raising the total volume of state bonding  
246 authority to free resources for beginner farmer programs if achieved in a manner  
247 consistent with a balanced federal budget.

248

249 In collaboration with state governments, as well as public and private local partners,  
250 NCSL supports investment in joint research, demonstration and development of food  
251 systems that provide opportunity to young and beginning farmers with limited assets, to  
252 produce and deliver affordable, healthy, fresh, nutritious food to consumers within the  
253 local and regional markets where the producers operate, toward a goal of national food  
254 self-sufficiency and optimal health.

255

#### 256 **Agriculture Biofuels**

257 NCSL believes that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) should be the lead  
258 federal agency to examine regulatory issues as they develop for the algaculture  
259 (Farming Algae) industry.

260

#### 261 **Support State Regulation of Agricultural Biotechnology**

262 NCSL supports the responsible use of the beneficial qualities of agricultural  
263 biotechnology such as in improved crop production techniques, pharmaceuticals, anti-  
264 immune disease control, biodegradable plastics, and other potential benefits to people  
265 in their states, the nation, the world and the global environment. NCSL supports the

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[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

266 continued regulation of agricultural biotechnology through state and territorial  
267 governments working in close collaboration and partnership with the Coordinated  
268 Framework for Regulation of Biotechnology administered by the U.S. Environmental  
269 Protection Agency (EPA), USDA, and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

270

#### 271 **Industrial Hemp Farming**

272 NCSL supports federal legislation to define industrial hemp as a distinct agricultural crop  
273 (1% or less THC content) and allow states to regulate commercial hemp farming.  
274 Currently 33 states have laws allowing hemp research or farming. NCSL believes that  
275 hemp has a long history as a sustainable and a profitable crop, and has great potential  
276 as a new crop for American agriculture and industry. According to Vote Hemp, an  
277 estimated \$687 million worth of hemp products were sold in the U.S. in 2016, including  
278 foods, body care products, clothing, auto parts, building materials, and paper. Most of  
279 these products were made from imported hemp due to federal policy that prohibits  
280 commercial hemp farming. NCSL believes that federal policies that obstruct industrial  
281 hemp farming are outdated and must be changed.

282

#### 283 **Avian Flu Response**

284 The highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) represents a significant threat to U.S. agriculture  
285 and the ability of our farmers to feed a growing world population. The federal government plays  
286 a key role in harnessing resources and providing assistance to farmers, states, and others  
287 affected by the virus. NCSL fully supports:

- 288 • federal efforts to protect poultry production and the nation's food supply by  
289 aggressively working to contain and remediate outbreaks when they occur;
- 290 • federal efforts to serve as technical advisors and the clearinghouse of information  
291 for all sectors and employing time sensitive approaches to sharing information;
- 292 • federal agencies working closely with the states to align HPAI efforts and share  
293 best practices; and
- 294 • increasing federal funding necessary for state and federal agencies to continue  
295 development of biosecurity containment strategies; more aggressive research

296 into the causes of avian influenza; why some fowl are more susceptible; and  
297 prevention measures, including the development of vaccines that can be taken.  
298  
299 **Wildfire Funding**  
300 Due to the significant increases in suppression costs in the last decade, funding  
301 transfers have depleted resources from vital fire prevention and mitigation programs.  
302 Further, increased fire activity can have substantially negative impacts on air quality,  
303 water quality, greenhouse gas emissions as well as the reduction of downstream water  
304 storage as sediment runoff lowers the effective level of dams and reservoirs;  
305 Additionally, reduced restoration and mitigation funding makes it easier for invasive  
306 pests and diseases to infest vulnerable forests; and the anticipated changes in climate  
307 will also cause fire risk to escalate in drought-ridden regions, further increasing wildfire  
308 suppression costs. Therefore, NCSL urges the federal government to:  
309 

- maintain budget mechanisms for wildfire suppression in order to fund  
310 catastrophic fires as natural disasters adopted as part of the Fiscal Year 2018  
311 budget agreement that minimizes the risk of fire transfers from prevention and  
312 mitigation programs.
- Manage wildfires on a regional basis, understanding that increased risk for  
313 wildfires on federal lands ultimately will lead to increased costs for state wildfire  
314 programs.

  
315

1    **COMMITTEE:**                    **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

2    **POLICY:**                        **ENCOURAGING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE**

3                                        **EMERGING CONSERVATION ECONOMY**

4    **TYPE:**                         **DRAFT RESOLUTION**

5    **WHEREAS**, one of the growth industries is the conservation economy which is a result  
6    of natural resource management practices that better manage the country's diverse  
7    bioregional conservation economies; and

8  
9    **WHEREAS**, we live in a time of tremendous change, the extent of which is the subject  
10   of intense debate around the world, that recognizes the clash of immediate human  
11   needs of food and water with current practices that have a long-term impact on the land  
12   and water's capacity to support life, livelihoods, and traditional lifestyles including local  
13   and indigenous subsistence living; and

14  
15   **WHEREAS**, increasing population and migration of people across the country strains  
16   each State's biodiversity and the current management of land and water is being  
17   evaluated because there is a sense of urgency to understand the impacts, among other  
18   things, or storm water run-off, rain acidity, wastewater, and fish farms; and

19  
20   **WHEREAS**, new initiatives related to natural resource management are integrating  
21   innovative science, traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), clean technology and green  
22   initiatives, as an example, and are encouraging new career pathways, advancing STEM  
23   jobs in conservation; and

24  
25   **WHEREAS**, there is a growing need for a STEM workforce to advance knowledge of  
26   nature's ecosystem and growing demand for new partnerships to be established across  
27   the country between federal agencies, state agencies, NGOs, conservationists,

28 scientists, consumers, producers, urban planners, entrepreneurs, and local  
29 and indigenous organizations to share their expertise, tools, and resources to achieve  
30 socio, financial, and economic prosperity through stewardship of natural resources for  
31 future generations.

32

33 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Conference of State  
34 Legislatures (NCSL) acknowledges new technology exists, such as wireless devices,  
35 advanced satellite monitoring, embedded microprocessors, weather stations, drones,  
36 and robots that monitor, test, or collect data to enhance natural resource management  
37 in a manner that improves efficiency, creates new jobs, and revolutionizes how  
38 we access locations previously too costly and dangerous; and

39

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCSL supports the conservation economy in which  
41 economic wealth is harvested from a bioregion's natural resources in a way that meets  
42 local communities' needs and does not lessen the natural and social health and well-  
43 being of a bioregion; and

44

45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCSL supports the development of an educated  
46 workforce to support the conservation economy and an increase in commerce related to  
47 research, innovation and development of new technologies to better manage natural  
48 resources and the country's diverse bioregional economies; and

49

50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCSL encourages Congress to fund the  
51 advancement of education, research, innovation and technology, and to collaborate  
52 with businesses and organizations that create jobs to meet the growing conservation  
53 economy.

1    **COMMITTEE:**                    **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

2    **POLICY:**                        **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

3    **TYPE:**                          **DRAFT RESOLUTION**

4    **WHEREAS**, environmental justice is defined as the fair treatment and meaningful  
5    involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with  
6    respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws,  
7    regulations, and policies; and

8

9    **WHEREAS**, all people desire to live in good health, in communities with access to  
10   nutritious foods, green spaces, clean air, drinkable water, reliable infrastructure and  
11   government services, and economic opportunity; and

12

13   **WHEREAS**, communities of color and economically-disadvantaged communities have  
14   historically shouldered the burdens of pollution and its toxic impacts on health, air,  
15   water, and land; and

16

17   **WHEREAS**, lack of investment in storm water infrastructure causes basement flooding,  
18   sewer backups, and water contamination that disproportionately affect economically-  
19   disadvantaged communities; and

20

21   **WHEREAS**, lack of access to fresh, local, healthy food contributes to poor health  
22   outcomes such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease throughout communities of color  
23   and economically-disadvantaged communities; and

24

25   **WHEREAS**, communities of color face barriers of access to green open space and the  
26   health and recreational benefits provided therein; and

27



28 **WHEREAS**, access to employment, economic investment, economic mobility, and  
29 training opportunities are unequal across the nation, with minority, low-income, and rural  
30 communities having least access to these opportunities; and  
31

32 **WHEREAS**, economically-challenged communities across the United States - urban,  
33 semi-urban, and rural - together face environmental injustices; and  
34

35 **WHEREAS**, the states must serve and protect their residents and contend with the  
36 adverse effects environmental injustice has on communities within their borders, and  
37

38 **WHEREAS**, addressing environmental justice has been a national priority for over two  
39 decades, as first outlined in the 1994 Executive Order 12898 on Federal Actions to  
40 Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations;  
41 and  
42

43 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Conference of State  
44 Legislators urges the President of the United States and Members of Congress to  
45 earnestly implement policies within the federal agencies and their programs that  
46 inculcate a culture of environmental justice and an awareness of the hurdles faced by  
47 communities of color and economically-disadvantaged communities; and  
48

49 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the federal agencies should both maintain and  
50 strengthen aid to states, through either grants or technical services, to support their  
51 efforts to protect and empower environmental justice communities; and  
52

53 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that certified copies of this Resolution be sent to the  
54 President of the United States and to all Members of the 115th Congress.

1 **COMMITTEE:**           **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

2 **POLICY:**               **OFFSHORE DRILLING**

3 **TYPE:**                 **DRAFT RESOLUTION**

4 **WHEREAS**, the proposed federal National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing  
5 Program for 2019-2024 seeks to expand oil and gas exploration, production, and drilling  
6 in the Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, and Gulf of Mexico; and

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, the Administration has pursued efforts to roll back certain enforcement and  
9 regulatory capacity of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement for offshore  
10 drilling activities under the Well Control Rule; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, Florida's coasts were previously removed from the proposed program, a  
13 decision based on potential threats that offshore drilling would impose on coastal  
14 tourism and rural economies; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, similar to Florida, other states on the U.S. coasts are heavily reliant on  
17 tourism, the maritime sector, and fisheries, which are particularly critical in coastal and  
18 rural communities; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, coastal states have been previously impacted by spills such as the BP  
21 Deepwater Horizon explosion that killed 11 people, caused a massive oil spill that  
22 leaked 3.19 million barrels of oil and gas into the Gulf of Mexico for 87 days, and  
23 resulted in \$247 million in losses to the commercial fishing industry; and

24  
25 **WHEREAS**, the probability of these spills occurring only increases if coastlines are  
26 opened to offshore drilling under the proposed plan and oversight of drilling activities  
27 diminished.

28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE-IT RESOLVED**, that the President of the United States is  
29 respectfully urged to withdraw his proposal to open portions of the Atlantic, Pacific, and  
30 Gulf Coasts for oil and natural gas drilling, or offer the opportunity for each coastal state  
31 to opt-out of this expansion, as such drilling would put coastal economies and the  
32 environment at needless risk of grave harm; and  
33  
34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the President of the United States and Congress  
35 are respectfully urged to maintain the current regulatory enforcement of standards and  
36 oversight of existing and future offshore drilling activities; and  
37  
38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted  
39 to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States, the Secretary of the  
40 United States Department of the Interior, the President of the United States Senate, the  
41 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress.

1   **COMMITTEE:**           **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**  
2   **POLICY:**             **OPPOSITION TO THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL**  
3                           **PROTECTION AGENCY'S PROPOSED**  
4                           **ROLLBACK OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE**  
5                           **EMISSION STANDARDS**  
6   **TYPE:**               **DRAFT RESOLUTION**

7   **WHEREAS**, the federal Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Standards, the Corporate  
8   Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) Standards, and the waiver allowing California vehicle  
9   emissions standards to be more stringent than those of the federal government have  
10   saved tens of thousands of American lives, reduced U.S. carbon emissions by millions  
11   of tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, and saved American motorists billions of dollars in fuel costs; and  
12

13   **WHEREAS**, these programs and the waiver authority are under the jurisdiction of the  
14   federal Clean Air Act and have contributed to a modern automobile that lasts longer,  
15   requires far fewer tune-ups, pollutes the air considerably less, and requires less fuel to  
16   operate; and  
17

18   **WHEREAS**, twelve states and the District of Columbia have joined in adopting the more  
19   stringent California vehicle emissions standards; and  
20

21   **WHEREAS**, if fuel efficiency had not improved from 2005 through 2015, including as a  
22   result of the current standards adopted in 2012, households would have spent 25  
23   percent more on fuel; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, even with the slightly higher purchase price attributable to incorporating the  
26 technology required to comply with the 2012 standards, the average new vehicle buyer  
27 starts saving during the first month of ownership; and  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, the International Council on Clean Transportation recently found that, due to  
30 technological improvements and innovation, compliance costs for model years 2022–  
31 2025 will be 34 percent to 40 percent lower than originally projected; and  
32

33 **WHEREAS**, auto manufacturers are already complying with the 2012 standards, and  
34 more than one-half of the new vehicles introduced in 2017 already meet the 2020 level  
35 of the standards, and 32 percent comply with the 2025 level; and  
36

37 **WHEREAS**, Synapse Energy Economics has reported that the 2022 and 2025  
38 standards will create more than 100,000 U.S. jobs in the auto industry by 2025 and  
39 more than 250,000 by 2035; and  
40

41 **WHEREAS**, the American Lung Association recently released a poll showing that voters  
42 overwhelmingly support the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) current fuel  
43 efficiency standards for cars, SUVs, and light trucks in model years 2022 to 2025, and  
44 the poll also found that nearly seven in 10 voters want the EPA to leave current fuel  
45 efficiency standards in place.  
46

47 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Conference of State  
48 Legislatures (NCSL) supports current standards and opposes EPA's proposal to roll  
49 back any of the GHG emissions standards or CAFE Standards or to revoke the  
50 emissions waiver granted to California under the Clean Air Act, and be it further; and  
51

52 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NCSL send a copy of this resolution to the EPA  
53 Administrator, NHTSA Administrator, and the United States Congress.

1    **COMMITTEE:**                **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

2    **POLICY:**                    **RENEWABLE ENERGY**

3    **TYPE:**                      **DRAFT RESOLUTION**

4    **WHEREAS**, human activity has caused an alarming increase in greenhouse gases such  
5    as carbon dioxide, primarily produced by the use of fossil fuels, which has resulted in a  
6    rapidly warming globe; and

7

8    **WHEREAS**, warming temperatures have already caused sea level to rise half a foot in  
9    recent decades, accelerating the coastal erosion, costing upwards of \$500 million per  
10   year in property losses.

11

12   **WHEREAS**, ocean acidity has already grown about thirty percent, contributing to  
13   widespread coral bleaching and reef loss, shrinking fisheries, and devaluing a natural  
14   resource supporting 1.6 million jobs in the U.S. economy; and

15

16   **WHEREAS**, a warming climate has already led to increasingly frequent and intense  
17   hurricanes, including a record 17 named hurricanes and tropical storms nearing or  
18   hitting the U.S. in 2017, with three major hurricanes making landfall and causing an  
19   estimated \$265 billion in damages; and

20

21   **WHEREAS**, industrial emitters have traditionally been allowed to freely emit carbon  
22   dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the air, effectively passing the costs of  
23   mitigation and cleanup onto taxpayers, prompting action to encourage the replacement  
24   of fossil fuels with renewable energy which has already led to successful progress in  
25   reducing costs for consumers, creating jobs, and improving the environment; and

26

27   **WHEREAS**, 57 percent of all residential buildings in U.S. are suitable for solar  
28   installation that could generate nearly 75 percent of the current residential electricity

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[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

29 consumption, potentially saving consumers money on their utility bills and creating a  
30 growth market that produces thousands of jobs; and  
31  
32 **WHEREAS**, wind power capacity has tripled in the past decade, supplying 6.3 percent  
33 of the nation's electricity in 2017 and supporting 105,500 jobs across the U.S.; and  
34  
35 **WHEREAS**, 29 states have already established renewable portfolio standards to  
36 expand deployment of renewable energy technologies and grow their economies; and  
37  
38 **WHEREAS**, because fossil fuels are a commodity whose price will rise as supplies  
39 become more difficult to extract, and renewable energy is a technology whose price will  
40 decrease as innovation reduces costs, states will increasingly stand to benefit by  
41 switching to renewable energy; and  
42  
43 **WHEREAS**, taxpayers in all states stand to benefit by reducing carbon pollution driving  
44 climate change, whose mitigation and adaptation costs are passed on to consumers as  
45 federal, state, and local governments are forced to spend additional resources fighting  
46 increasing sea level rise, drought, and natural disasters.  
47  
48 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Conference of State  
49 Legislatures (NCSL) believes the federal government should safeguard and expand  
50 upon established tax incentives and grant programs for renewable energy technologies,  
51 and pursue efforts to make the U.S. a 100 percent clean and renewable energy  
52 economy; and  
53  
54 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCSL believes the federal government should  
55 establish programs to assist states with providing retraining and meaningful support to  
56 workers in the fossil fuel sector to ensure their future we transition the market from fossil  
57 fuels to renewable energy; and

58 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the  
59 President of the United States and to all of the members of the 115th Congress.

1



1     **COMMITTEE:**             **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

2     **POLICY:**                **REDUCING BARRIERS OF SMART COMMUNITY**

3                               **INFRASTRUCTURE ADVANCEMENT**

4     **TYPE:**                 **DRAFT RESOLUTION**

5     **WHEREAS**, Smart Community technologies can strengthen America's cities, states and  
6     regions by improving the overall quality of life, economic opportunity, and security for  
7     those who live in America's communities; and

8  
9     **WHEREAS**, the development and deployment of Smart Community technologies in the  
10    communication, energy, and transportation sectors provides new opportunities to  
11    increase overall public health and facilitates economic growth across urban and rural  
12    communities; and

13  
14    **WHEREAS**, such Smart Community innovation encompasses a range of technological  
15    solutions to modernize and improve the delivery of state and local government services;  
16    and

17  
18    **WHEREAS**, Smart Community technologies can achieve community goals, such as  
19    increasingly clean and efficient transportation, improved energy management,  
20    integration of distributed and renewable energy resources, increase access to better  
21    quality broadband connectivity and enhanced transportation mobility; and

22  
23    **WHEREAS**, partnerships between state and local governments and the private sector  
24    can support 'Smart Community' innovations across all communities and help overcome  
25    resource constraints and impediments, and facilitate the efficient coordination of  
26    services; and

27

28 **WHEREAS**, these public-private partnerships can help accelerate Smart Community  
29 advancements and new technology deployments that benefit residents and constituents  
30 across cities, states, and regions; and ensure that Smart Community technologies are  
31 efficiently integrated and provide maximum benefit to the communities they serve; and  
32

33 **WHEREAS**, the infrastructure of the communications, energy, and transportation  
34 sectors are not only interconnected, but serve as the foundational elements to enable  
35 the deployment of new Smart Community technologies in all communities.  
36

37 **THEREFORE**, agencies, such as the Department of Transportation, Federal  
38 Communications Commission, Federal Aviation Administration, the Department of  
39 Agriculture and the Department of Energy should fund grant programs and opportunities  
40 for state and local governments that support efficient investments in Smart  
41 Communities.  
42

43 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Conference of State  
44 Legislatures (NCSL) believes that federal policymakers, agencies, regulators should  
45 continue to work with state and local levels of government, as well as partners from the  
46 communications, energy and transportation sectors, to develop policies that facilitate  
47 and accelerate the development and deployment of Smart Community technologies that  
48 can maximize benefits for all communities at the local, state, and regional levels.  
49

50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCSL supports additional federal funding toward  
51 the development of Smart Communities, and that the Department of Transportation  
52 should re-launch the 2015 Smart City Challenge, and expand the number of  
53 communities eligible to receive awards across the nation.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE AGENDA**

### **Co-Chairs:**

**Representative Curt A. McCormack, Vermont**  
**Representative Ed Orcutt, Washington**

### **Legislative Staff Co-Chairs:**

**Gene Hogan, South Carolina**  
**Hope Stockwell, Montana**

### **Vice Chairs:**

**Senator Justin R. Cronin, South Dakota**  
**Senator Tyson R. Larson, Nebraska**  
**Representative Chuck McGrady, North Carolina**  
**Representative Andrew J. McLean, Maine**  
**Representative Mary M. Mushinsky, Connecticut**  
**Representative Dan Saddler, Alaska**

### **Legislative Staff Vice Chairs:**

**Sean Hamel, North Carolina**  
**Jason Powell, Virginia**  
**Brandon White, Kentucky**

<b>Sunday, July 29</b>	
8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. <i>JW Marriott, Plaza 1</i>	<b>Energy Supply Task Force</b> Contact <a href="mailto:Kristy.Hartman@ncsl.org">Kristy.Hartman@ncsl.org</a> for more information
8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. <i>Offsite</i>	<b>Agriculture Task Force Tour</b> Contact <a href="mailto:Ben.Husch@ncsl.org">Ben.Husch@ncsl.org</a> for more information
<b>Monday, July 30</b>	
7:30 a.m. – Noon <i>JW Marriott, Diamond 10</i>	<b>Agriculture Task Force</b> Contact <a href="mailto:Ben.Husch@ncsl.org">Ben.Husch@ncsl.org</a> for more information
8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. <i>151</i>	<b>Energy Policy Summit</b> Contact <a href="mailto:Kristy.Hartman@ncsl.org">Kristy.Hartman@ncsl.org</a> for more information
Noon – 1:15 p.m. <i>404 AB</i>	<b>NRI Committee Policy Working Group</b> The members of each Standing Committee's Policy Working Group will review recently introduced and existing policy directives and resolutions and discuss the committee's work products. Any policy directives and resolutions considered by the Policy Working Group will be referred to the full committee for further discussion and vote at the committee's business meeting. If you do not know if you are a member of the NRI Committee's policy working group please contact <a href="mailto:kristen.hildreth@ncsl.org">kristen.hildreth@ncsl.org</a> for more information.

3:15 – 4:15 p.m. 404 AB	<p><b>What's the Buzz about E-Bikes?</b></p> <p>Half of all trips in the U.S. are three miles or less, but only 2 percent of those are made by bikes. However, electric bikes (or “e-bikes”) are catching on as an affordable and accessible option for transportation and recreation. Hear industry experts and policymakers discuss how states are moving to define e-bikes as bicycles in state law and safely incorporate e-bikes alongside motor vehicles, traditional bikes and pedestrians.</p> <p>Moderator:  <b>Douglas Shinkle</b>, transportation program director, NCSL</p> <p>Speakers:  <b>Alex Logemann</b>, director of state and local policy, PeopleForBikes  <b>Morgan Lommele</b>, e-bikes campaigns manager, PeopleForBikes  <b>Senator Rebecca Saldaña</b>, Washington  <b>Senator Todd D. Weiler</b>, Utah</p>
4: 15– 5:15 p.m. 404 AB	<p><b>Housing and Transit: A Practical Pair?</b></p> <p>Over past decade, many states and communities, including California, have experienced a significant rise in the cost of housing. The causes are wide-ranging, highly variable and dependent on local circumstances, and solving this problem will require a host of solutions. California State Senator Scott Weiner is attempting to provide more affordable housing by increasing the housing stock near existing transit structures. Learn about his proposal, lessons learned and next steps on this intractable issue.</p> <p>Moderator:  <b>Steve Rauschenberger</b>, former NCSL president and Illinois state senator</p> <p>Panelist:  <b>Senator Scott Wiener</b>, California</p>
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.	<p><b>Networking Reception</b></p> <p>Meet us in LA! Feel the vibrancy of Los Angeles and enjoy this reception complete with a variety of local food and musical entertainment. Revel in the California sunshine while networking with peers from across the country. This exciting event is within walking distance of the convention center. You must have your badge to enter.</p>
<b>Tuesday, July 31</b>	
9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Hall K	<p><b>General Session – Healthy Workplaces: Culture Trumps Compliance</b></p> <p>As organizations across the country grapple with charges of harassment and other challenges, the national conversation has turned to workplace culture. Hear from Johnny Taylor Jr., president and CEO of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), about the importance of workplace culture, especially in environments with complicated power dynamics like those inherent in state legislatures. Learn why the underlying culture is even more</p>

	<p>essential than rules and enforcement, and how to create a safer and more respectful workplace.</p> <p>Speaker:  <b>Johnny Taylor</b>, president and CEO, Society of Human Resource Management</p>
<p>10:15 – 12 p.m.  404 AB</p>	<p><b>NRI Committee Business Meeting</b></p> <p>All legislators and legislative staff are encouraged to attend the Business Meeting and consider Policy Directives and Resolutions that will guide the NRI Committee's advocacy efforts before Congress and the administration. Join us as the committee debates and votes on policies that guide the Committee's advocacy work in Washington D.C.</p> <p>Presiding:  <b>Representative Curt A. McCormack</b>, Vermont, co-chair, NRI Committee  <b>Representative Ed Orcutt</b>, Washington, co-chair, NRI Committee</p>
<p>12:15 – 1:15 p.m.  404 AB</p>	<p><b>Increasing Consumer Access to Cleaner, Healthier and Cheaper Fuels</b></p> <p>Americans drove more than 300 billion miles last year, emitting almost 1 billion tons of carbon dioxide. Over 90 percent of all gasoline is blended with 10 percent ethanol, resulting in cleaner air and reduced fuel costs. Join us for a lunchtime discussion of how we can continue to both reduce carbon dioxide and ozone forming emissions while reducing the price of gasoline at the pump, all without having to tell people to stop driving.</p> <p>Moderator:  <b>Senator Deb Peters</b>, South Dakota, president, NCSL Executive Committee</p> <p>Panelists:  <b>Michael Lorenz</b>, executive vice president of petroleum supply, Sheetz Inc.  <b>Angela Tin</b>, vice president environmental health, American Lung Association</p> <p><i>NCSL is grateful for ADM's support for this session.</i></p>
<p>1:30 – 2:45 p.m.  404 AB</p>	<p><b>CAFE Standards – Where Are We, and What's Coming?</b></p> <p>In April 2017, EPA announced that the existing national motor vehicle greenhouse emission standards were "not appropriate" and that it would issue revised requirements. This could result in a split between the federal government and California (along with a coalition of 12 states and District of Columbia). Join our panel discussion for an in-depth look at this issue, its potential impact on states and consumers, and what it means for the automobile industry.</p> <p>Panelists:</p>

	<p><b>Analisa Bevan</b>, assistant division chief, California Air Resources Board  <b>Steve Douglas</b>, senior director of environmental affairs, Auto Alliance  <b>Ed Regan</b>, senior vice president, CDM Smith</p>
<p>3:00 – 4:15 p.m.  404 AB</p>	<p><b>State Regulation of Drones – Establishing the Rules of the Road</b></p> <p>Over the past two years, drones have gone from a technology that many in the industry argued should be solely regulated by the federal government to one over which states have clear authority to regulate and interests in promoting. This panel will bring together current and former federal officials, drone technology companies, and state officials who have successfully welcomed this technology into their state while also creating frameworks for effective regulation and economic development.</p> <p>Moderator:  <b>Assemblymember Jacqui V. Irwin</b>, California</p> <p>Panelists:  <b>Reggie Govan</b>, former chief counsel, Federal Aviation Administration  <b>Basil Yap</b>, UAS program manager, NC Department of Transportation  <b>Greg McNeal</b>, professor of law and public policy, Pepperdine School of Law</p>
<p>4:15 – 5:00 p.m.  404 AB</p>	<p><b>Trends in State Transportation Funding</b></p> <p>Motor fuel taxes have been a primary source of transportation funding for decades. However, an increasing number of states are considering alternative sources that may become the backbone of transportation funds in the decades to come, and the feds are watching closely. Join us to hear from NCSL's Transportation Program about legislative trends over the past five years and the emerging ideas that may eventually lead to a replacement of the gas tax.</p> <p>Speaker:  <b>Kevin Pula</b>, sr. policy specialist, NCSL</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, August 1</b></p>	
<p>9 – 9:45 a.m.  Petree CD</p>	<p><b>Setting the State' Agenda (Business) Meeting Breakfast</b></p> <p>During the Setting the States Agenda and Annual Business Meeting, legislators and legislative staff will elect the NCSL officers and Executive Committee for 2018-2019, approve the Conference's Budget for 2019 and consider changes to NCSL's By-Laws. Following the Business portion, all legislators will consider the policy directives and resolutions that were reported from the NCSL Standing Committees and that, if approved, will form the States' Agenda in Washington, guiding NCSL's advocacy effort before Congress and the administration.</p>
<p>10:00 – 11:30 a.m.  502 B</p>	<p><b>Energy Innovation: Can the U.S. Beat its Global Competitors?</b></p> <p>Nations across the globe are jockeying to become leaders in exploding new energy markets. While leading in natural gas and oil production, the U.S. has ceded leadership in the expanding solar and wind technologies markets—industries where the nation was once a trailblazer. How will the U.S. remain</p>

	competitive? Learn the answers during this exploration of global energy technology and policy trends.
11:30 – 1:45 p.m. <i>Hall G</i>	<b>Exhibit Hall Luncheon</b> Enjoy a delicious lunch with your colleagues and visit exhibitors from around the nation with interesting information and policy perspectives.
2:00 – 3:15 p.m. <i>308 AB</i>	<b>Natural Disasters: How Data Helps Build Resilience</b> Explore the latest geographic information systems technology in this interactive session. Learn how states can use these and other data to prioritize investments and craft policies that foster collaboration across state agencies to mitigate risk and recover faster from natural disasters.  Speakers: <b>Richard M. Leadbeater</b> , global solutions manager, state, Provincial Government Industry, Esri <b>Anne Stauffer</b> , director fiscal federalism, Pew Charitable Trusts <b>Dr. James K. Wolfenbarger</b> , manager civil programs, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory
2:00 – 3:15 p.m. <i>502 B</i>	<b>What's at Stake in the Evolving Electricity Market</b> States face difficult decisions regarding the nation's energy supply. Low natural gas and renewable prices are forcing nuclear and coal plants to close and new technologies are changing the way energy is produced. Experts will discuss the upending market dynamic and the questions it raises about the reliability of energy sources, impacts on state economies, resiliency of U.S. infrastructure and the role of states, federal agencies and the energy industry.  Speaker: <b>Susan Tierney</b> , senior advisor, Analysis Group, Inc.
3:30 – 4:45 p.m. <i>502 B</i>	<b>America's Drinking Water: Is it Safe?</b> Nearly 294 million Americans receive their water from the 170,000 public water systems governed by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The rest of the country relies on private wells and other sources. When contaminants make water undrinkable—whether it comes from public systems like the one in Flint, Michigan, or from private wells—states are forced to respond. This session will explore how states and the federal government work to protect the country's drinking water.  Panelist: <b>Brian Hubbard</b> , health scientist, Center for Disease Control and Prevention <b>Ben Stanford</b> , senior director of water research and development, American Water
<b>Thursday, August 2</b>	
8:00 – 9:30 a.m. <i>Hall K</i>	<b>General Session – It's All About Country: Politics, Polling and Pop Culture</b>

	<p>Explore what America is thinking with nationally renowned pollsters Margie Omero and Kristen Soltis Anderson as Nashville sets the stage for next year's Summit. Enjoy a scrumptious, southern-style breakfast while Omero and Soltis Anderson share how the numbers reveal the public's mindset on news, politics and pop culture. You won't want to miss the bipartisan team that co-hosts the top-200 podcast, "The Pollsters," while getting a peek at what's in store at next year's Summit in Nashville.</p> <p>Speakers:  <b>Margie Omero</b>, GBA Strategies  <b>Kristen Soltis Anderson</b>, Echelon Insights</p>
<p>9:45 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.  502 B</p>	<p><b>Strengthening Rural Communities</b></p> <p>The divide between rural and urban culture and priorities is being felt across the country, including in state legislatures. As urban areas continue to grow, rural legislators increasingly find themselves having to explain the needs of rural constituents to their urban counterparts. This interactive session includes audience polling and a facilitated discussion about rural demographics and other data, with a look at how legislatures have addressed the needs of rural communities. You'll learn about: state innovations and successes that promote rural development; legislative options and promising state strategies to improve rural initiatives; and how to clarify the rural voice within the policymaking process.</p> <p>Moderator:  <b>P.J. Huffstutter</b>, agriculture reporter, Reuters News</p> <p>Speaker:  <b>Chris Mehl</b>, Headwaters Institute  <b>Senator Jerry Sonnenberg</b>, Colorado</p>



**From:** Flasher, Kim  
**Sent:** Friday, July 13, 2018 3:19 PM  
**To:** House\_All  
**Subject:** Legislative Conferences and Travel  
**Attachments:** Travel Request Form.docx

Memo to: All House Members  
  
From: Speaker Ryan Smith  
  
Date: July 13, 2018  
  
Re: Legislative Conferences Annual Meetings

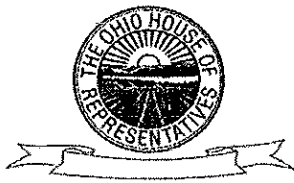
As you may know, the Ohio General Assembly pays dues to several National Legislative Conferences such as NCSL, CSG, and ALEC. As these organizations begin holding their annual meetings, several of you may be interested in attending.

In the past, the House has allowed a limited number of Members to attend with a set expenditure reimbursement from the State permitted. This year, the House will approve any Member who would like to attend ONE national meeting and will cover the conference registration fees. The Member is liable for all remaining expenses. Such expenses may be covered through personal or campaign funds.

It is advised that you consult with your caucus Legal Counsel before utilizing campaign funds toward any travel.

If you would like to register for one of the annual meetings, please complete the attached "Request for Travel Form" and return it to Kim Flasher in the Administrative Office.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Kim. Thank you.



## **TRAVEL REQUEST FORM**

Traveler \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*I have attached a copy of the conference Itinerary and associated registration fees  
for review.*

Conference \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Conference

Location \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date Conference Begins \_\_\_\_\_ Date Conference Ends \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Request to travel approved:  
by:

Expenses to be reimbursed

Representatives  
Kim Elasher, Chief Administrative Officer

House of

Service Commission  
Date

Legislative

**From:** Ingram, Catherine  
**Sent:** Friday, July 13, 2018 4:31 PM  
**To:** Flasher, Kim; House\_All  
**Subject:** Re: Legislative Conferences and Travel

Is this message in regard to only the annual meeting or does it also refer to any other event sponsored by said organizations?

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

----- Original message -----

From: "Flasher, Kim" <Kim.Flasher@ohiohouse.gov>  
Date: 7/13/18 3:18 PM (GMT-05:00)  
To: House\_All <House\_All@ohiohouse.gov>  
Subject: Legislative Conferences and Travel

Memo to: All House Members  
  
From: Speaker Ryan Smith  
  
Date: July 13, 2018  
  
Re: Legislative Conferences Annual Meetings

As you may know, the Ohio General Assembly pays dues to several National Legislative Conferences such as NCSL, CSG, and ALEC. As these organizations begin holding their annual meetings, several of you may be interested in attending.

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**From:** Griffin, Lisa  
**Sent:** Friday, July 13, 2018 8:00 PM  
**To:** Westlake, Libby; Lundregan, Scott; Myers, Marisa; Best, Carolyn  
**Subject:** RE: Right-to-Work talking points for review  
**Attachments:** Right-to-work.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** PRR

Changes attached.

LG

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**From:** Westlake, Libby  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2018 11:07 AM  
**To:** Griffin, Lisa<Lisa.Griffin@ohiohouse.gov>; Lundregan, Scott<Scott.Lundregan@ohiohouse.gov>; Myers, Marisa<marisa.myers@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn<Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>  
**Subject:** Right-to-Work talking points for review

Attached—thank you!

**Libby Henson**

Special Assistant to the Speaker for Correspondence  
Office of Speaker Ryan Smith | Ohio House of Representatives  
(614) 728-5448

## RIGHT-TO-WORK

### Talking to public and private employers and employees, labor unions

*In an effort to keep Ohio competitive, the goal of introduced right-to-work legislation is to prioritize workers' rights, while encouraging economic growth and competition among industry. Should Ohio become a right-to-work state, it would be more competitive with bordering right-to-work states.*

#### Janus v. AFSCME Decision -- Opinion 6/27/18 (5-4)

- The state of Illinois' extraction of agency fees from nonconsenting public-sector employees violates the First Amendment
- Overturned Abood v. Detroit Board of Education, which had allowed public-sector labor unions to collect "agency fees" from bargaining unit members who opt out of union membership
- No agency or fair share fee can be collected by public-sector labor unions unless the public employee agrees to pay

#### House Joint Resolution 7 (Becker/Riedel, referred to committee 1/16/2018)

- Private-sector right-to-work: No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. This emphasizes that Ohio is open for business.

#### House Joint Resolution 8 (Becker/Riedel, referred to committee 1/16/2018)

- Public-sector right-to-work: Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.

#### House Joint Resolution 9 (Becker/Riedel, referred to committee 1/16/2018)

- Public-sector prevailing wage: Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.

#### House Joint Resolution 10 (Becker/Riedel, referred to committee 1/16/2018)

- Public-sector paycheck protection: Prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers' wages. Unions will also be prohibited from spending workers' money on political activities without workers' consent.

#### House Joint Resolution 11 (Becker/Riedel, referred to committee 1/16/2018)

- Public-sector project labor agreements: State and local government entities will be prohibited from engaging in contracts that minimize competition for construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered, creating a level playing field.

#### House Joint Resolution 12 (Becker/Riedel, referred to committee 1/16/2018)

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Bottom: 1.39"

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- Public-sector union recertification: Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers' bargaining units, opening up competition for new bargaining units, giving workers a chance to have their voices heard, and making union leadership accountable to their membership.

**House Bill 163 (Roegner/Riedel, referred to committee 5/1/2017)**

- Allows a political subdivision, special district, or state institution of higher education to opt out of Ohio's prevailing wage law

**Janus v. AFSCME Decision**

- Overturned *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education*, which had allowed public-sector labor unions to collect "agency fees" from bargaining unit members who opt out of union membership
- No agency or fair share fee can be collected by public sector labor unions unless the public employee agrees to pay



**From:** Flasher, Kim  
**Sent:** Friday, July 13, 2018 9:53 PM  
**To:** Ingram, Catherine  
**CC:** House\_All  
**Subject:** Re: Legislative Conferences and Travel

Representative Ingram,

Thank you for the question. This applies to all travel.

Have a good weekend,

Kim.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 13, 2018, at 4:31 PM, Ingram, Catherine <[Catherine.Ingram@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Catherine.Ingram@ohiohouse.gov)> wrote:

Is this message in regard to only the annual meeting or does it also refer to any other event sponsored by said organizations?

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

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To: House\_All <[House\\_All@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:House_All@ohiohouse.gov)>  
Subject: Legislative Conferences and Travel

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Date: July 13, 2018

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